MARVEL

EPIC COLLECTION

BACK TO SCHOOL

LOBDELL • NICIEZA • BACHALO
MADUREIRA • KUBERT • CRUZ

EPIC COLLECTION

GENERATION X

BACK TO SCHOOL

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BACK TO SCHOOL

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SEP
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
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PHALANX COVENANT
GENERATION NEXT
PART 1

PROLOGUE

MONACO...

...A NAME THAT CONJURES UP IMAGES OF WEALTH AND PRIVILEGE.

AFTER TONIGHT FOR ONE YOUNG WOMAN THE NAME MONACO WILL FOREVERMORE BE LINKED WITH MEMORIES OF--

--TERROR.

ON A MOUNTAINOUS ROAD ABOVE THE TINY PRINCIPALITY'S CAPITAL.

"I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH MONEY YOU'RE PAYING ME," I SAY TO HIM...

"...YOU'RE OFF YOUR BLOOMING CHOP, YOU ARE!"

I ASK YOU, WHAT COULD THAT FATHER OF YOURS BE THINKING?

IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE SAID A SINGLE WORD TO ANOTHER LIVING PERSON.

DAY OR NIGHT OR DAY--IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO YOU, DOES IT?

YOU JUST SIT THERE IN YOUR OWN WORLD.

MERCY, M'DEAR--YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ENOUGH TO COME OUT OF THE RAIN.

MONET?

-sigh-

I UNDERSTAND YOUR FATHER IS UPSET, ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TWINS AND YOUR BROTHER...

...BUT HE SIMPLY CANNOT GO ON PRETENDING YOU DON'T NEED HELP.

I WENT SO FAR AS SUGGESTING THE STATES, I DID. "THERE'S A CHAP THERE NAMED XAVIER--" I TOLD HIM...

"--HAS AN EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL THERE FOR 'GIFTED YOUNGSTERS."

ALL IT WOULD TAKE IS ONE WORD FROM YOU, MONET, AND I'M SURE YOUR FATHER WOULD AT LEAST CONSIDER IT.

TRUST MISSUS GAYLE--SOME THING HAS TO GIVE SOON...

SOMETHING DOES.

SHRRIP!

IMPOSSIBLY, THE STEEL MESH TIRES...

... THE CUSTOM-BUILT, POLYMER-ENHANCED CHASSIS--

-- THE LIMOUSINE'S ENTIRE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, AND ITS STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPUTERIZED TRACKING BEACON-- IN SHORT, EVERYTHING -- GOES MAD.

SLAM!

THE TWO MILLION DOLLAR AUTOMOBILE WAS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND AN ASSAULT BY AN ARMY OF TERRORISTS.

ALL OF WHICH PROVE ABSOLUTELY USELESS --

SCREE

¡CRASH!

-- AGAINST A LONE MEMBER OF THE MYSTERIOUS LIFE FORM THAT CALLS ITSELF THE PHALANX.

SSSSSS

COMMUNICATION, CORE CENTRAL: CONTACT ESTABLISHED.

ENCOUNTER WITH MUTANT DESIGNATE-TARGET: IMMINENT. VEHICLE DRIVER--NON-ESSENTIAL--WILL BE ABSORBED.

ARGH!

ABSORBING GENETIC REFUSE FOR FUTURE TRANSMODE ASSIMILATION.

FOR PERHAPS THE FIRST AND FINAL TIME IN HER ENTIRE LIFE...

... RETIRED COLONEL GAYLE CORD-BECKER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE MI-6...

... IS LEFT -- ALMOST SPEECH-LESS.

MY...

...GOD.

BIOCENTRIC ANALYSIS: HUMAN, POST-PRIME.

CONCLUSION: NOT A THREAT.

SO YOU SAY...!

GO, CHILD!

RUN, AND DON'T LOOK BACK!

SHOVE.

ONCE THEY NOTICE WE'RE *MISSING*, YOUR FATHER'S PEOPLE WILL COME *LOOKING*.

NOW, QUIT *STARING*, GIRL... AND FOR PITY'S SAKE *MOVE IT!*

KRSSH!

SUPERFLUOUS BEHAVIOR. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE THE *PHALANX!*

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT "*ESCAPE*," LUV?

NOW *COME* TO COLONEL CORD-BECKER, YOU HEARTLESS CREATURE...

... BECAUSE *PICKERING* AND I HERE ARE GOING TO SEND YOU *BACK* TO WHATEVER *FACTORY* SPAWNED YOU!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

AEEE!

AUTOMOBILE: ABSORBED.
CARBONITES: ASSIMILATED.
DESIGNATE: MONET ST. CROIX WITHIN RANGE.
BIOCENTRIC ANALYSIS:...
B-BI-BIO CENNNTRIIICC ANNNN--
KCKT
UNABLE TO EXECUTE BIOCENTRIC SCAN AT THIS TIME...
...DUE TO INTENSE LEVEL OF PSIONIC INTERFERENCE.
EVIDENCE SUPPORTS COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE'S THEORY.
QUARRY MAY BE MOST POWERFUL OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF HOMO SUPERIOR.
THAT IS WHY--
--SHE IS SCHEDULED FOR *TERMINATION!*
NOTE: SUBJECT DOES NOT RESPOND TO VIOLENCE, OR THREATS OF DEATH.
SUBJECT RESPONDS TO NO OUTSIDE STIMULI.
SECOND "GENERATION NEXT" MUTANT SUCCESSFULLY APPREHENDED.
UPLOADING TRANSMODE SEQUENCE, DESTINATION.
WEIGH STATION TO AWAIT FINAL COMPILATION OF MUTAGENETIC TESTING DATA.
THRMMM
AND SO IT BEGINS...
END PROLOGUE

THE UNITED STATES.

SPECIFICALLY PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK.

SEAN CASSIDY, THE MUTANT KNOWN AS BANSHEE HAS RETURNED FROM A WEEKEND VISIT TO MASSACHUSETTS...

... TO FIND THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

YE SHOULD REALLY CALM DOWN, LASS. 'TIS NO ONE HERE TRYING T'HURT YE.

"HURT ME?!"

THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL ME, CASSIDY!

STORM, ICEMAN, ARCHANGEL-- ALL OF THEM... THEY'RE AFRAID OF ME!

THEY KNOW IF I WASN'T RESTRAINED, I COULD READ THEIR MINDS! I COULD RUIN THEIR PLANS... I COULD DESTROY THEM ALL!

I'M CERTAIN YE COULD, MS. FROST. I'M CERTAIN YE COULD.

THE POOR WOMAN. 'TIS CLEAR THE STRAIN OF LOSING HER HELLIONS IS HAVING AN EFFECT.*

COMBINED WITH THE FACT PROFESSOR XAVIER TELEPATHICALLY COAXED HER MIND BACK OUT OF ICEMAN'S BODY-- IS IT ANY WONDER SHE'S SNAPPED?

* EMMA FROST LEARNED THE FATE OF HER FORMER STUDENTS IN UNCANNY X-MEN #314.--BOB

STAN LEE PRESENTS
THE UNCANNY X-MEN
IN

THE PHALANX COVENANT

"GENERATION NEXT"
PART ONE

ENCOUNTER

written by SCOTT LOBDELL
penciled by JOE MADUREIRA
inked by TERRY AUSTIN & DAN GREEN

ELIOPOULOS
LETTERS
BUCCELLATO
COLORS
KANNAS
EDITS
DuFALCO
CHIEFS

BUT Y'MUST REMEMBER, YE WERE IN A *COMA* FOR *ALMOST* A YEAR-- 'TIS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND *WHAT* KIND OF STRESS THAT PLACED ON YOUR MIND AND BODY.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT *ME*, YOU *IDIOT*!

I CAN'T TELL YOU *EXACTLY* WHAT'S WRONG--

--CAN'T EVEN... *THINK CLEARLY*... DURING THESE *"TESTS"*--

-- BUT *SOMETHING* IS WRO...

WHAT HAPPENED TO HER? SHE WAS CUT OFF.

SONIC DISRUPTER FIELD, SEAN.

UNLIKE *YOU*, WE'VE BEEN HEARING HER *FREAK* FOR THE PAST *THREE HOURS*.

YES. WE COULD *ALL* USE A BREAK.

AS MUCH AS I DINNAE WANT T'BE *BUTTING* ME NOSE INTO THE *DAY TO DAY DECISIONS* AROUND HERE...

...BUT P'RHAPS *ICEMAN* AND *STORM* WERE NOT THE *IDEAL* CHOICE TO BE RUNNING THE DIAGNOSTICS.

BOTH OF THEM'VE HAD *BAD* EXPERIENCES WITH EMMA FROST TELEPATHICALLY POSSESSING THEIR BODIES. *

BUT HOW TO PUT THIS *DELICATELY*...?

*SEE *UNCANNY* #314 AND #151. -- BOB

NOW DO US *ALL A FAVOR*... LIE THERE AND *SHUT UP*.

STORM--

--ORORO--

--IF I MIGHT HAVE A *WORD* WITH YE?

I CANNAE HELP THINKING THAT IN *LIGHT O'* THEIR RECENT HISTORY...

... BOBBY BEING HERE MIGHT BE *EXACERBATING* EMMA'S CON-FUSION?

IF YE'D LIKE TO *TAKE* HIM *SOMEWHERE*-- TALK TO HIM ABOUT HIS *OWN* FEELINGS-- I'D BE HAPPY TO *FINISH* THESE READINGS.

HOW *GENEROUS*, SEAN.

BUT *WHOLLY* UNNECESSARY.

WHILE YOU WERE TENDING TO *OTHER* MATTERS, CHARLES LEFT *VERY SPECIFIC* INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE HE LEFT FOR MUIR ISLAND.

AND YOU KNOW I'D *NEVER* BE *SO NAUGHTY*--

--AS TO *DISOBEY* PROFESSOR XAVIER.

WELL... I SUPPOSE THE PROFESSOR *KNEW* WHAT HE WAS *DOING*, BUT--

BUT *NOTHING*, SEAN! NO ONE KNOWS *MORE* ABOUT *BEHAVIORAL PSYCHOLOGY* THAN PROFESSOR X.

HE, NO DOUBT, BELIEVES IT IS *IMPORTANT* BOTH BOBBY AND EMMA DEAL WITH EACH OTHER *RIGHT OFF*--

--RATHER THAN LET ILL FEELINGS *FESTER* AND MULTIPLY OVER THE COURSE OF *TIME!*

BUT--

YOU'LL SEE, SEAN--*UNWIND* FROM YOUR TRIP, *SHOWER*, GET A GOOD NIGHT'S *SLEEP*...

...AND BY THE *MORNING*, EVERYTHING WILL BE *PEACHES* AND *CREAM*.

BUT--

SEAN... *TRUST* ME.

COME *SUNRISE*, YOU WON'T HAVE A *CARE* IN THE WORLD.

IF YUIR *SURE'N* YE DON'T *NEED*--

--ANY...

...HELP?

FAHH

I SHOULD PROBABLY GO BACK IN THERE AND ARGUE ME POINT, BUT FACE IT, SEAN...

...YE ARE *DEFINITELY OUT OF THE LOOP.*

'TIS ME *OWN* FAULT REALLY.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I'VE SHOWN ANY *TRUE COMMITMENT* TO THE X-MEN...

...SINCE I'VE FELT THAT THIS PLACE HAS *BEEN* A *HOME*?

NOTHING HAS BEEN THE *SAME* SINCE I *LEFT* TO FIND ME "OWN TRUE LOVE" *MOIRA MACTAGGERT*-- ONLY TO DISCOVER SHE *BACKTRACKED* ON ME.

THERE'S A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP FOR YE.

IT MAY BE TIME TO *ACCEPT* THAT IF'N I AM T'BE ANY USE TO ME FELLOW MUTANTS--IT'LL HAVE T'BE *SOMEWHERE ELSE.*

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

...INCOMING CALL : AT 1

WHAT--?! AN *INCOMING CALL* ON THE *PRIORITY* FREQUENCY ?

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

SHOULD PROBABLY LET ONE OF THE *FULL-TIMERS* HANDLE THIS. I DINNAE WANT TO BE *OVERSTEPPING* ME--

ACCH--LISTEN TO ME! CARRYING ON AS IF ME *FEELINGS* ARE HURT, JUST BECAUSE STORM DINNAE TAKE ME ADVICE.

NOT *TOO* SENSITIVE, EH ?

AS I *LIVE* AND *BREATHE*...MR. AND MRS. SUMMERS!

BANSHEE--SEAN--WE HAVE TO *SPEAK* TO THE PROFESSOR!

WE HAVE *VITAL* INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN FINDING A CURE FOR THE *LEGACY VIRUS*.

WHY, THAT'S *GREAT* NEWS, LAD! BUT I'M AFRAID YE'VE DIALED THE WRONG *NUMBER* AS IT WERE. CHARLES IS ON *MUIR ISLE*, TENDING TO THAT *VERY* MATTER.

NOW BEFORE YE GO *RUNNING OFF*... TELL ME, KIDS--

--*HOW* WAS THE HONEYMOON?

UM... WELL, IT GETS A LITTLE *COMPLICATED*.*

LET ME GUESS, YE SPENT *TWO WEEKS* LYING ON THE BEACH AT *SAINT BARTS*... *BORED* OUT OF YE BLESSED MINDS?

* THAT'S *ONE WAY* OF LOOKING AT IT. SEE CYCLOPS AND PHOENIX 1-4 FOR THE FULL STORY. -- BOB

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

SEAN, IT'S *GOOD* TO SEE YOU AGAIN. TELL ORORO AND THE OTHERS THAT JEAN AND I ARE HEADING DIRECTLY TO MUIR... *

...TELL THEM WE'LL SEE THEM SOON.

* WHERE YOU'LL FIND THEM IN WOLVERINE #85, --BOB

WISH US LUCK!

CLK

LUCK, MY FRIENDS. ALL THE BEST T'YE!

AHHH, T'BE *YOUNG* AND *IN LOVE*.

I *REMEMBER* THE FEELING.

BANSHEE, WHO WAS THAT ON THE COMM-LINK JUST NOW?!

I WANT A FULL REPORT-- IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT DID YOU SAY... EXACTLY?!

ARCHANGEL-- CALM DOWN, LAD. IT WAS ONLY SCOTT AND JEAN ON THEIR WAY BACK FROM THEIR HONEY-MOON.

THEY WERE IN SUCH A HURRY TO TALK TO THE PROFESSOR, THEY'RE GOING STRAIGHT ON TO MUIR.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT-- RELAYING THAT KIND OF INFOR-MATION TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONEL COULD PUT EVERYONE AT RISK!

"UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL"?! WARREN, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TWO OF YUIR VERY BEST FRIENDS.

YOU ARE... RIGHT... OF COURSE.

I'LL JUST PHONE AHEAD AND ALERT MUIR THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET COMPANY.

BUT IN THE FUTURE, SEAN...

... WE'D ALL APPRECIATE IT IF X-MEN COMMUNIQUES WERE HANDLED BY X-MEN.

ARE WE CLEAR ON THAT?

CRYSTAL.

LATER...

WHAT'S THAT OLE' IRISH PROVERB...?

"YE CAN NEVER GO HOME AGAIN"?

T'BE HONEST, THOUGH -- I DON'T KNOW IF THE MANSION IS ANY MORE "HOME" THAN ANYWHERE ELSE I'VE EVER BEEN.

LET'S SEE, IN MY DAY, I'VE BEEN AN INTERPOL AGENT IN EUROPE... LORD AND MASTER OF CASSIDY KEEP IN IRELAND, A POLICE DETECTIVE IN NEW YORK CITY...

... A RELUCTANT VILLAIN IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, OF ALL PLACES, AND FINALLY A GLOBE HOPPING MUTANT CRUSADER.

ACH, SEAN-- FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BUILT A LIFE ON CHANGE, YE THINK YE'D BE USED TO IT BY NOW.

FAITH! ENOUGH WOOLGATHERING-- I'M GOING TO BE GIVIN' MESELF A HEADACHE.

WHAT I NEED IS A WORKOUT IN THE DANGER ROOM.

HANK'S BEEN BUGGIN' ME FOR MONTHS NOW TO TRY HIS HOLO-GRAPHIC HEATHER LOCKLEAR PRO-GRAM.

HMMM. OCCUPIED... ... AND LOCKED?

COMPUTER?

REMEDIAL PROGRAM: ENGAGED
PRIVACY CODE: NO ACCESS
RUNNING

JUST FOR THE RECORD NOW, WHO IS CURRENTLY USIN' THE DANGER ROOM?

JUBILATION LEE: DESIGNATE: JUBILEE

AND...?

WHO IS SPONSORING HER--WHAT *ADULT* IS SUPERVISIN' HER SESSION, THAT IS?

JUBILEE IS LONE OCCUPANT AT THIS TIME.

ACH! NOW THEY'RE ALLOWING *MINORS* IN *SOLO TRAINING* SESSIONS? WHILE I DON'T WANT T'BE *CHARGING* IN AND *EMBARRASSIN'* THE CHILD--

-- I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING I SHOULD DISCUSS WITH THE OTHERS.

NEXT THING YE KNOW, PEOPLE'LL START *TRAIPSING* IN AND OUT OF...

... THE PROFESSOR'S...

... READY ROOM?

READY ROOM ACCESS STRICTLY PROHIBITED WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS *MORE* ODD...

HIS FIRST INSTINCT IS TO *CALL OUT* TO *PSYLOCKE*...

... TO *QUESTION* WHAT WOULD POSSIBLY POSSESS HER TO *VIOLATE* THE SANCTITY OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S *PRIVATE* SANCTUM.

INSTEAD, THE INSTANT *BEFORE* SHE *TURNS* TO *SEE* HIM--BANSHEE FOLLOWS AN EVEN *STRONGER* IMPULSE...

... THAT *BETSY* WOULD BE IN THE *ONLY TRULY* OFF-LIMITS ROOM IN THE *ENTIRE* MANSION, WHILE THE PROFESSOR'S AWAY...

MORE IMPORTANTLY THAN THAT, WHY DO I SUDDENLY GET THE FEELING THAT IF I STEP *THROUGH* THAT OPEN DOOR--

-- THERE'LL BE *NO* TURNING BACK?

... OR THE FACT I MANAGED TO *HIDE* IN THE SHADOWS FROM A NINJA-TRAINED TELEPATH?

BON SOIR, MONSIEUR CASSIDY.

SAY HELLO TO THE MAN, BISHOP.

HELLO, SEAN. WE'RE A LITTLE BUSY HERE, MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO CEREBRO.

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN HELP YOU WITH?

NOPE... NOBODY BUT US GRUNTS--

-- DOING ALL DE HARD WORK WHILE DE PROFESSOR'S ON DE OTHER SIDE OF DE POND.

NOT AT ALL.

I JUST CAME TO LOOK FOR CHARLES.

STRICTED AREA

SINCE NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN HERE BUT HIM, I JUST ASSUMED HE'D LEFT THE DOOR OPEN.

SINCE HE'S STARTED WALKING AGAIN, 'TIS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP TRACK OF THE MAN.

RIGHT YE ARE ABOUT THAT, BISHOP. HE'S MORE'N WELCOME TO COME AND GO AS HE PLEASES WITHOUT REPORTING INTO IT.

WE'RE FINE, MON AMI.

NOW IF YOU TWO NEED A HAND, I'LL BE IN--

IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO QUESTION THE PROFESSOR, BANSHEE.

GREAT.

I'LL CATCH YE LATER.

THEY DID NAE SO MUCH AS *BLINK* WHEN I LIED-- SAYING CHARLES IS *WALKING* AGAIN.

WHICH MEANS THEY'RE EITHER BEING *MIND CONTROLLED*...

...OR SOME SHAPE-SHIFTING ROGUES HAVE *INFILTRATED* MANSION SECURITY.

EITHER WAY, THIS IS SOMETHING STORM SHOULD KNOW ABOUT *IMMEDIATELY*.

COMPUTER--LOCATE STORM, OPEN INTER-MANSION SECURITY CHANNEL, *NOW*!

NONAPPLICABLE.DESIGNATE:STORM IS NOT CURRENTLY ON THE GROUNDS.

HOW IS THAT *POSSIBLE*? I JUST *SPOKE* TO HER TEN MINUTES AGO.

COMPUTER, LOCATE ARCHANGEL.

NONAPPLICABLE.DESIGNATE: ARCHANGEL IS NOT CURRENTLY ON THE GROUNDS.

LOCATE... BISHOP... GAMBIT.

NONAPPLICA-

COMPUTER--

--IDENTIFY ALL *ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL* ON *GROUNDS* AT THIS TIME.

DESIGNATE: BANSHEE,ACCESS CORRIDOR 12

WHITE QUEEN: MEDICAL CENTER.

JUBILEE: DANGER ROOM

SABRETOOTH:MAXIMUM SECURITY LEVEL.

NO OTHER IDENTIFIABLE LIFE FORMS ON GROUNDS AT THIS TIME.

SAINTS PRESERVE US...!

TENSE MOMENTS LATER...

BEFORE I DO ANYTHING, I'D BETTER INFORM CHARLES THAT SOMETHING IS THE MATTER.

WITH JUST A LIL' BIT OF LUCK "ARCH-ANGEL" WILL HAVE...

...LEFT THE...

COMMUNICATIONS ROOM?

'TIS NAE POSSIBLE!

THIS WOULD HAVE TAKEN A DOZEN SHIELD AGENTS THREE WEEKS O' WORKING 'ROUND THE CLOCK TO TOTALLY GUT SUCH AN ELABORATE SYSTEM--

--AND I WAS HERE LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR AGO!

WHAT'S MORE... THE WAY EVERY CIRCUIT IS EXPOSED... EACH WIRE CAREFULLY PLACED...

...'TIS AS IF THE WHOLE ROOM IS BEING... DISSECTED?

I HOPE THAT WASN'T AN OVERLY *IMPORTANT* CALL YOU WERE TRYING TO MAKE, *SEANSTER.*

WARNING DO NOT

I SHOULD BE DONE HERE IN ABOUT AN HOUR-- *MAKING ADJUST-MENTS,* DON'T YOU KNOW--THEN IT'S *ALL YOURS.*

'TIS *NOT* A PROBLEM, LAD.

I JUST WANTED T'CALL MUIR ISLE... T' WISH *MOIRA* A "*GOOD NIGHT.*"

CAN IT WAIT 'TIL MORNING?

"CAN IT WAIT 'TIL MORNING" TO SAY GOOD NIGHT, HANK?

HA!

YE *SLAY* ME, HENRY *McCOY*-- HOO HOO-- YE'RE *ALWAYS* JOKIN'!

BUT *SURE'N* IT CAN WAIT. FACT, I'LL GO SET ME ALARM CLOCK RIGHT *NOW!*

HA!

THAT IS A GOOD ONE.

ISN'T IT?

SHORTLY...

...SEVERAL FLOORS BELOW, IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WARD...

EVENIN', ROGUE.

EVENING, BANSHEE...

...SUGAH.

'TIS A SHAME THAT SUCH A FINE LASS LIKE YESELF IS STUCK *GUARDING SABRETOOTH*... WHEN YE SHOULD BE OUT ENJOYING A MOONLIT STROLL WITH GAMBIT.

AH DON'T MIND IT...

...BEING *ALONE*, THAT IS.

AH'M *SUPPOSED* TO BE ALONE DOWN HERE.

WITH *NOBODY ELSE* AROUND.

I'LL BE *OUT* OF YE WAY IN A MINUTE, I'M JUST HERE T' TAKE SABRETOOTH FOR HIS DAILY *WALK*.

AH'VE *ALREADY* TAKEN HIM OUT-SIDE TODAY.

TIP TAP TIP

BANSHEE?

TIP TPP TAP

I SAI-- AH SAID, AH'VE ALREADY *ATTENDED* TO THE MAN'S *NEEDS*.

THERE IS *NO REASON* FOR YOU TO *OPEN* HIS CELL AT THIS TIME.

BANSHEE...?

...ARE YOU *LISTENING* TO ME?

WAP!

THAT I AM, DARLING--

--NOW YE LISTEN TO ME!

IT IS A SOUND UNLIKE ANY OTHER PRODUCED ON THE PLANET.

THE SONIC SCREAM OF THE MAN CALLED BANSHEE--

--HIS MUTANT POWER, HIS BIRTHRIGHT--

--IS ONE CAPABLE OF SPLITTING STEEL WITH THE PRECISION OF A LASER BEAM...

... OR LEVELING SMALL MOUN-TAINS.

IN THIS CASE, IT SHREDS THE TECHNO-ORGANIC LIVING CIRCUITRY THAT IS BUT ONE MEMBER OF THE ALIEN LIFE FORM KNOWN AS...

...THE PHALANX!

ON ME SAINTED MOTHER'S GRAVE...!

'TIS ONE O' THE CREATURES THAT BATTLED STORM AND GAMBIT A WEEK OR TWO BACK!*

BUT ARE THESE... CREATURES... ONLY REPLICAS OF THE TEAM--

--OR HAS THE PHALANX ASSIMILATED THE X-MEN?!

*UNCANNY #312-313.--BOB

WHATEVER THE CASE, I GOTT' MAKE A MOVE NOW-- HAVE TO MODULATE JUST THE RIGHT PITCH TO PULL CREED OUT OF HIS SEDATION--

--WITHOUT TURNING THE MAN'S HEAD INT'A BOWL OF SO MUCH OATMEAL!

ON YE FEET, MAN! THE MANSION'S SECURITY HAS BEEN COMPROMISED...

... LEAVING YE, ME, JUBILEE AND THE WHITE QUEEN KNEE DEEP IN PHALANX!

BRRGRRR...

WAS COUNTIN' ON ONE O' YA' PIECIN' THINGS T'GETHER...

...EVENTUALLY.

JUST DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE YOU, IRISH!

SO.

YA' GOT A GAME PLAN...?

AS CARBONITES-- ESPECIALLY AS MUTAGENETIC VARIABLES--

--YOUR FATE IS TERMINATION!

IF THE COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE WAS NOT OTHERWISE ENGAGED IN DECIPHERING VITAL INFORMATION WE HAVE GATHERED HERE...

... IT WOULD AUTHORIZE US TO--

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH-- SHOULD, COULDA, WOULDA!

YA' DONE A GOOD JOB O' DISCOMBOBULATIN' HER, BANSHEE...

...BUT NOTHIN' SHORT OF OBLITERATING 'EM IS ENOUGH TO STOP THESE JOKERS.

SIT BACK, IRISH.

AND TAKE NOTES.

DANGER

KEEP BACK

IT HAS BEEN WEEKS SINCE HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CUT LOOSE.

A "GUEST" OF THE X-MEN--

--CREED HAD BEEN UNDERGOING AN INTENSE PSIONIC THERAPY IN ORDER TO CONTROL HIS BESTIAL NATURE...

...TO SUBDUE HIS BLOODIED, FRENZIED RAGES.

HE WAS, ARGUABLY, SHOWING THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF PROGRESS...

...UNTIL NOW.

THE ANIMAL HAS BEEN LET OUT OF ITS CAGE...

...AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.

THAT WAS FUN.

NOW GIVE ME ONE REASON I SHOULDN'T GIVE YOU SOME OF THE SAME?

BECAUSE THE DETONATOR IN MY HAND IS HOOKED TO YUIR MUZZLE, CREED.

ONE WRONG MOVE, AND YE JOIN YUIR FRIEND HERE ON THE FAR CORNER O' THE FLOOR.

HMM.

JUST ASKING.

AGAIN, WHAT'S THE PLAN?

YE FREE JUBILEE AND THE WHITE QUEEN...

"... AND I'LL SEE ABOUT THE *EXTERMINATING*..."

SITUATION: PHALANX: ROGUE HAS CEASED TRANSMISSION.

ANALYSIS: DESIGNATE: BANSHEE HAS BEEN ALERTED TO OUR PRESENCE.

SAVE THE TECHNO-SPEAK FOR THE MAIN FRAME, "*MON AMI*".

IT DOESN'T MATTER *HOW* MUCH BANSHEE KNOWS.

NO ENTR

ONCE WE'VE DOWNLOADED ALL OF XAVIER'S FILES--

--AND ANALYZED THE CEREBRO MUTANT DETECTION PROGRAM, UTILIZING THE X-MEN CAPTIVES AS TEST SUBJECTS--

--THE PHALANX WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO ASSIMILATE MUTANTS JUST AS EASILY AS WE DO HUMANS.

EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR, LAD--

BWA-KA-BROOM

--BECAUSE *THAT* MEANS THE X-MEN ARE *STILL* ALIVE...

...AN' ALL *WE* HAVE T'DO IS FIND THEM!

PARDON THE USE OF A *FIRE-ARM*-- BUT I KNOW YE POSSESS THE ABILITY TO *ADAPT* T'MUTANT POWERS.

AN' I FELT IT WAS TIME T'BE *CREATIVE*.

ALL I NEED T'DO *NOW* IS T'SET THE *SELF DESTRUCT* SEQUENCE AND BLOW THE READY ROOM--

"--I'M PRAYING THE OTHER THREE ARE *FARIN'* AS WELL *UP ABOVE?*"

WARNING: ENCEPHALON PATTERN DISRUPTION.

UNIT FRAME ENDO-SKELETAL DISPERSION: IMMINENT!

IT IS AS... IF MY MMMIND...

... WEARRRE TEARRRINGGG...

... ITTTSSSELLFFF APPPARRRRTTT!

THAT'S AS *CLOSE* AN ESTIMATION AS TO WHAT I JUST DID TO YOU AS YOU'RE LIKELY TO GET--

--AND CERTAINLY *NO LESS* THAN WHAT YOU PLANNED FOR *ME*, HAD MR. CREED NOT RELEASED ME.

SORRY I TOOK SO LONG, *FROST*-- HAD T'PLUNK *PINT SIZE* HERE OUT OF THE DANGER ROOM ON MY WAY.

I'D HATE FOR JUBILEE TO *DIE* BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO *SETTLE*--

SHARRADA!

YOU'RE *BORING* ME, CREED.

LET US *CONTINUE RIDDING* THIS PLACE OF--

UH UH, LADY.

BANSHEE WANTS A *RENDEZVOUS* DOWNSIDE... *NOW!*

WHAT *POSSIBLE* INTEREST WOULD I HAVE IN WHAT BANSHEE *WANTS* OR *DOES NOT* WANT?!

WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT *YOUR* INTERESTS, FRAIL... WE'RE TALKIN' ABOUT *MINE!*

'SIDES, AS *IMPRESSIVE* AS YOUR PSI-BOLT WAS-- THE *SAME TRICK* DON'T WORK *TWICE* ON THE PHALANX!

HOW CAN I BE *CERTAIN* I CAN TRUST *YOU*, SABRETOOTH?

TRUST ME?!

HA!

THAT'S A HOOT.

THE READY ROOM...

SELF DESTRUCT ENGAGED: 30 SECONDS...

CEREBRO...?

SHOW ME-- EXACTLY... WHAT PROGRAM WAS RUNNING A MOMENT AGO.

25

NEO-GENETIC MANIFESTATION--BIO-SIGNATURE: FILE 72234 MONET ST. CROIX-- EVERETT THOMAS ANGELO ESPINOSA CLARICE FERGES

21

SWEET SAINTS! CHARLES'S LIST-- THEY'RE GOIN' AFTER THE CHILDREN!

17

CEREBRO, DISPLAY NEO-GENETIC GEOMATRIX.

12

DID THOSE CREATURES MANAGE TO *DOWNLOAD* THIS INFORMATION?

DOES THE PHALANX *KNOW*, *WHERE* THESE MUTANTS ARE?

7

THE WELFARE OF GENERATION NEXT IS NOT YOUR CONCERN.

SUFFICE TO SAY THEY ARE BUT GENE FODDER FOR OUR TECHNO-ORGANIC CORE.

5

RATHER, THEY *WILL BE* ONCE THEY CAN BE ASSIMILATED BY THE PHALANX.

4

UNTIL THEN, THE TRUTH IS --

--THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH UNRULY MUTANTS... IS SLAUGHTER THEM!

3

WELL, *THAT* WAS HONEST OF YE.

2

SO I'LL BE *EQUALLY* AS HONEST WHEN I SAY...

...LATER.

1

FORGIVE ME, CHARLES

IT'S A LIFETIME OF INFORMATION WE LOST...

... BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY.

ESCAPE FROM THE PHALANX IS FU--

BAM!

WHAT THE--?!

HAVE T'TIME THIS--

--PERFECT!

SONIC BLAST CLEARIN' A PATH--

--LETTIN' ME OUT-DISTANCE

THE EXPLOSION!

SLAM!

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG, MR. CASSIDY?

CUT IRISH SOME SLACK, FROST.

HE WAS PROBABLY TRACKIN' DOWN THE REST OF THE X-SHEEP.

NOT FAR OFF, CREED, I MANAGED T'DISPATCH A BRIEF INFORMATION BUOY TO XAVIER ON MUIR...

... EXPLAINING AS BEST I COULD WHAT HAPPENED -- AND WHY HE AND EXCALIBUR HAVE TO TRACK DOWN THE X-MEN.

IS JUBILEE ALL RIGHT?

SHE'S FINE. WHY AREN'T WE SEARCHING FOR THE X-MEN?

BECAUSE THOSE CREATURES HAD ACCESS TO A FILE FILLED WITH NEW, UNTRAINED YOUNG MUTANTS.

MEN AND WOMEN WE MIGHT HAVE CONTACTED EVENTUALLY. INNOCENTS WHO KNOW *NOTHING* OF ANY O' THIS.

THEY ARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF HOMO SUPERIOR THAT *WE* HAVE TO FIND -- BEFORE THE PHALANX DOES!

NEXT: X-MEN #30 MEET SYNCH! BE THERE!

CYCLOPS TIMELINE

AN EYE ON THE PAST AND FUTURE OF THE FIRST AND GREATEST X-MAN

1 First recorded appearance. Scott and brother Alex Summers escape burning plane from mutant parachutes — mad parents. They're separated. Scott grows up in orphanage with optic force-blast mutant powers manifest themselves.

2 Scott draws the attention of Professor Charles Xavier. Scott Summers is code-named Cyclops and joins X-Men. There, he falls in love with Jean Grey, Marvel Girl.

3 Cyclops is reunited with brother, now code-named Havok, in battle with Unus and the Stranglers.

4 Jean Grey and the rest of the X-Men are captured by mutant island Krakoa. Professor X forms new team to rescue original.

5 Jean Grey is lost in shuttle crash. Alien Phoenix force takes her appearance and place. X-Men believe Phoenix is Jean Grey. Later, Cyclops is reunited with father, now calling himself Corsair; he discovers his mother died on an alien world, not in plane crash.

6 Phoenix dies to save the universe, a grief-stricken Cyclops leaves X-Men.

7 Cyclops and Jean Grey marry and have a baby — Nathan Christopher Summers. Madelyne Pryor, the ex-lover of his best friend Jean Grey. Then Nathan travels into the past to join X-Factor.

8 Jean Grey is discovered to still be alive. X-Men learn it was the Phoenix Force impersonating Marvel Girl that perished. X-Factor forms — reuniting original X-Men: Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Angel, Beast and Iceman.

9 Apocalypse unveils plans to rule the world. Kidnapped by Mr. Sinister during X-Men's battle with Apocalypse's Four Horsemen, Nathan Summers is sent into the future.

10 Reappearance of Mr. Sinister during back to Cyclops' childhood are exposed. Cyclops rescues son.

11 Madelyne Pryor is revealed as clone of Jean Grey and dies in battle.

12 Nathan travels back in time to the present to join X-Factor.

13 X-Factor battles Marauders. Nathan infected with archangel's organic virus and is sent to the future for cure. Cyclops loses son for the second time.

14 Future discovered by Nathan Summers from the future.

15 Scott Summers and Jean Grey are married. Honeymoon interrupted three years into future.

16 Formation of Generation X

17 Senator Kelly is killed by mutants. Mutant Registration Act reinforced. Xavier Institute destroyed.

18 Xavier survives. He develops new task force and brings equality to mutant and human relations.

19 Xavier is killed. Scott and Jean give birth to child, Rachel, who travels to the past to join Excalibur. Rachel then goes further into the future to become the founder of the Clan Askani.

20 Sentinels kill the X-Men. Only a few escape to form underground rebellion.

21 Apocalypse rises to power and takes control. Sentinels destroyed. Cyclops and Marvel Girl raise baby Nathan and lead rebellion against Apocalypse.

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X-MEN

PHALANX COVENANT

GENERATION NEXT
PART 2

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

Andy Kubert
matthew ryan

PROLOGUE : THE PHALANX COVENANT

...LIKE WORMS MADE OF WARM, SINUOUS WIRE.

PULSING, THEY STRANGLE HER EVERY HAIR FOLLICLE.

STRAINING, THEY BURROW UNDER HER EYELIDS.

SHE CAN HEAR THEM TALKING, AS WELL.

A HOLLOW CHATTER, BUZZING IN HER HEAD.

THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE PHALANX.

THEIR GOAL IS TO ASSIMILATE ALL LIFE ON EARTH INTO THEIR SENTIENT TECHNO-ORGANIC COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE.

FOR EVERYONE TO SEE WITH THEIR EYES. HEAR WITH THEIR EARS. TALK WITH THEIR LIPS. THINK WITH ONE MIND.

SHE DOESN'T SCREAM AS SHE FEELS THEM CRAWLING ALL OVER HER...

BUT WHAT THE PHALANX COVEN DOESN'T REALIZE--

--AS THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CO-OPT THE YOUNG GIRL NAMED MONET ST. CROIX, WHOM THEY KIDNAPED A DAY AGO--

--MEET WITH REPEATED FAILURE--

--IS THAT SHE IS CALMLY TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AS MUCH ABOUT THEM, AS THEY ARE ABOUT HER!

CONFIRMED. MUTANTS STILL REMAIN BEYOND THE GRASP OF PHALANX ABSORPTION.

BIOCENTRIC ANALYSIS: SUBJECT: MUTANT LIFEFORM; MONET ST. CROIX

ASSIMILATION UNSUX-SUX-SUCCESSFUL

QUERY: IS SUBJECT DESIGNATE STATUS AS A MUTANT CARBONITE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ABSORPTION DELINQUENCY?

78-33-PROCESSING 22001--AFFIRMATIVE...

THEY ARE--AS ALWAYS--AN ANAMOLY

BUT THE REASON SUPPLIED IS DEEMED INSUFFICIENT FOR INTEGRATION TO THE CORE MEMORY.

WHY DO ONLY MUTANTS RESIST ASSIMILATION TO THE COLLECTIVE?

theirs is a lifeform DIFFERENT than humans.

but that is

something

we have ALWAYS known, isn't it

HODGE--?

AFFIRMATIVE, LANG. AND WE HAVE BOTH FAILED...

...IN OUR PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO END THE POX WHICH MUTANTS DISEASE THIS PLANET WITH.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON, THAT THE COLLECTIVE SEEKS TO ELIMINATE ALL MUTANT INTERFERENCE.

AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHY THE NEXT GENERATION OF XAVIER'S BROOD MUST BE FOUND!

and if these children can

not be assim-i-lated

THEN THEY-- LIKE ALL WHO OP-OP-OPPOSE THE PHALANX --MUST BE DESTROYED!

even if that

means

HUMAN opposition, as well?

TO ASSIMILATE ALL SOLVES THE PROBLEMS OF OPPOSITION.

TO ELIMINATE THAT WHICH CANNOT BE ASSIMILATED, SOLVES THE PROBLEMS OF OPPOSITION.

THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE DR. STEVEN LANG, SAYS NOTHING.

BUT THE ANSWER GIVEN BY THE PHALANX PATTERNED AFTER THE TEMPLATE OF CAMERON HODGE FREEZES THE BLOOD IN LANG'S STILL-HUMAN VEINS.

SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH HIS CREATION. TO END THE MUTANT SPECIES HE HATES SO MUCH, HAS LANG UNWITTINGLY OPENED THE WAY FOR ALL HUMANITY TO SUFFER, AS WELL?

THE PHALANX ARE EVOLVING BEYOND HIS EXPECTATIONS.

THEY ARE NOW SEEING THE WORLD IN WAYS WHICH, HE FEARS, COULD POSE EVEN MORE TROUBLE FOR MANKIND, THAN IT DOES FOR MUTANTS...

YOU GENTLEMEN HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: DROP THE LEASH

BOOK ONE • GENERATION NEXT
PART TWO

A tale of the X-MEN brought to you by: FABIAN NICIEZA WRITER • ANDY KUBERT PENCILER • MATT RYAN INKER | BILL OAKLEY letterer | DIGITAL CHAMELEON color art | BOB HARRAS editor | TOM DEFALCO ed. in chief

IS YOUR INTENTION TO SHOOT ME--

--SIMPLY BECAUSE I YELLED TOO LOUD?

NO, THOMAS. IT'S BECAUSE WHEN YOU SHOUTED--

--EVERY SINGLE WINDOW BETWEEN GRAVOLS AND GRAND WAS BLOWN OUT!

7TH CINCT

THAT'S RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT, VANDALISM, MAYBE EVEN NEGLIGENT ASSAULT TACKED ON!

SO WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT, KID?

THEY ARE FRIGHTENED.

THEY ALWAYS KNEW EVERETT THOMAS AS A GOOD KID-- --A STRAIGHT "A" STUDENT, THE WHOLE WORKS.

BUT THEN THINGS STARTED HAPPENING--ODD THINGS-- AND ALL THEY KNOW IS THAT EVERETT ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE AT THE CENTER OF IT.

THEY DON'T KNOW HE IS A MUTANT.

IF THE TRUTH BE TOLD, HE BARELY KNOWS HE'S ONE HIMSELF.

HE ONLY KNOWS HE'S DIFFERENT.

AND, WHAT'S MORE, HE ENJOYS IT.

ALL THE POLICE UNDERSTAND IS THAT HE MAY BE VERY DANGEROUS!

OFFICERS, RELAX! AS I TRIED TO EXPLAIN EARLIER--

--THE WINDOWS WERE ONLY AN AFTER-EFFECT! I HAD MY HANDS KIND OF FULL AT THE TIME!

SO YOU SAID, KID...

...SOME SORT OF CREATURES MADE OUT OF LIQUID METAL...

...LIKE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THAT?!

I THINK IT'S A SAFE BET THAT AT LEAST HALF OF YOU BELIEVE ME.

WHAT'RE YOU--

--TALKING--

--ABOUT?

TARGET DESIGNATE: EVERETT THOMAS-- PROCEED WITH ASSIMILATION INITIATIVE...

TARGET ACQUIRED: THOMAS, EVERETT--

--MUTAGENETIC ABILITIES: UNSPECIFIED--

--PROCEED WITH CAUTION...

I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA...

...DON'T PROCEED AT ALL!

THESE ARE THE THINGS I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT, OFFICERS!

NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME?

GRMMMMRMMMM

WHAT NOW--?

STRUCTURE UNDER ASSAULT FROM A PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED MUTAGENETIC SIGNATURE: SONIC ASSAULT, MULTI-DECIBEL LEVEL.

STRUCTURE CANNOT MAINTAIN...

SKREEEESHAAAAA!!

FWROUMPHPH

MOVE! MOVE!!

DO YOU HEAR THAT?! THAT SOUND-- EAR-PIERCING!!

WELL... THAT WOULD EXPLAIN MY TRICK WITH THE WINDOWS EARLIER, WOULDN'T IT?

I MUST HAVE GOTTEN *IN SYNCH* WITH SOMEONE IN THE AREA WHO HAD *SUPER-POWERS*, AND THAT MEANS...

"...THE CAVALRY HAS ARRIVED!!"

SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

LET'S HIT 'EM HARD, IRISH --LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

THE X-MEN-- OR RATHER, WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM -- HAVE COME TO PREVENT THE PHALANX'S TARGET LIST OF YOUNG MUTANTS FROM BEING ABDUCTED.

BANSHEE'S SONIC SCREAM RUPTURES MORTAR AND METAL ALIKE, COLLAPSING THE WALLS OF THE FRAGILE OLD PRECINCT HOUSE--

--WHILE SABRETOOTH, THE SAVAGE MUTANT WHO HAS BECOME A "PRISONER" UNDER THE WATCH OF CHARLES XAVIER--

--RELISHES IN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RELEASE HIS PRIMAL INSTINCTS AGAINST THE PHALANX--

--ADVERSARIES HE CAN HAPPILY DECIMATE WITHOUT ANY REPERCUSSIONS FROM HIS ACTIONS!

ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH THE COLLECTIVE REGARDING THE ADVISED NEXT STEP

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THEM?!

SKR-

SABRETOOTH--THE LAD-- GET HIM!

EEEEE

SCHPLUTT

DISFUN-- FUNKK-- FUNCTION-- REGISREGIS-- TERED IN APPENDAGE MODULES

MUTANT DESIGNATE: BANSHEE [SUB-DESIGNATE CASSIDY, SEAN] ABILITY TO CONTROL VOCAL CHORD PITCH

TO THE POINT OF MODULATING AND CASTING DECIBEL-VARIANT SONIC CALLS

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU IDIOTS, HE YELLS REAL LOUD!

I GOT THE PUNK, CASSIDY.

WE'RE CLEAR-- SO CUT LOOSE!

THE SCREAM RIPPED FROM THE DEPTHS OF SEAN CASSIDY'S SOUL IS DEAFENING... SO INTENSE--

--IT LIQUIFIES THE TECHNO-ORGANIC BEINGS IN ITS WAKE.

BUT SUCH RAW POWER IS NOT SO EASILY CONTAINED. FOR BLOCKS AROUND, PEOPLE GASP OUT LOUD AS A RED-HOT PAIN CUTS THROUGH THEIR BRAINS.

TWO MILES AWAY, A SMALL BLACK CAT, HACKLES RAISED, WAILS AT THE MOON.

SUCH IS THE POWER OF THE WAIL OF THE BANSHEE.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU HAD IT IN YOU, IRISH!

NICE T'SEE IT COME OUT!

WOW.

STOP SHOUTING, CREED. I'M FINISHED.

A MUTIE, YOU SAID?

SHOULD WE ARREST HIM?

WHAT FOR? SAVING OUR LIVES?

I THINK NOT, OFFICERS. YOUR THANKS WILL SUFFICE.

NOW, CREED, WHAT WERE YE BELLOWIN' ABOUT, MAN?

IT WAS JUST INTERESTIN' T'SEE A DARKER SIDE O' YOU, IRISH.

A LITTLE BIT O' ME.

AYE. NOT AS MUCH AS YE'D LIKE T'SEE BOYO, PERHAPS...

...BUT MORE'N ENOUGH FOR ME, I ASSURE YE.

NOT TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL OR ANY-THING...

...BUT CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN TO ME EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON?

THAT WE WILL, EVERETT, LAD--

--AS SOON AS WE GET OUT OF HERE.

BUT MY FAMILY--!

THEY'LL BE FINE, SON. IT'S ONLY MUTANTS THESE PHALANX ARE AFTER...

...SPECIFICALLY, NEW MUTANTS...

YOU HEAR ANYTHING ON THE OL' TELE-PATHIC INTERCOM, FROST?

THEY'VE FOUND AND RESCUED THE BOY, EVERETT THOMAS...

...AND ARE RETURNING HERE.

BY THE WAY, JUBILEE... GET OFF THE CAR. NOW.

A LITTLE LESS DRAWING OF ATTENTION SEEMS ADVISABLE.

LISTEN, MS. FROST, JUST 'CAUSE YER SO BUMMED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED T' YOUR OL' STUDENTS, THE HELLIONS--*

--DOESN'T MEAN THAT US YOUNG MUTANTS SHOULDN'T BE SEEN OR HEARD.

*SEE UN-CANNY X-MEN #314. --BOB

KEEPIN' US ALL HIDDEN AN' IGNORANT 'BOUT WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN IN THE WORLD ISN'T GONNA KEEP US SAFE, Y' KNOW.

SPEAKIN' OF WHICH-- WHAT'S WITH THE STRAIGHT GENES?

YOU WONDER WHY THE HUMANS WALK BY US WITHOUT A SECOND GLANCE?

SIMPLE. I AM TELEPATHICALLY ***MASKING*** OUR PRESENCE FROM THEM.

THE LESS ***OBTRUSIVE*** WE REMAIN, THE BETTER FOR US.

AND IT IS A TASK MADE MUCH EASIER FOR ME, GIRL, IF YOU WOULD KINDLY KEEP ***QUIET!***

yeah, sure thing, Ms. Emma Frost

usetabe the muckity-muck ***WHITE QUEEN*** of the ***HELLFIRE CLUB***

'Fore the X-Men whupped yer butt everytime out

then the Sentinels Fried yer brains

an' you ended up wakin' up inside dorko Drake's Iceman body

an' now we're stuck with you an' Sabretooth out here in (yuck!) St. Louis

shooor I'll keep quiet, that's me, li'l miss obtrusive-not

I'm not nervous, not at all

Lawdeee, do I wish ***WOLVEROONIE*** were here

he'd wipe out these walking Slinkies For shoor

then wipe the floor with the two of ***YOU*** just For Fun, you'd see!

hmmm--?

PLOP!

uhm, MTH. FROTHT, MA'AM, . LADY... uhm...

...I dink we're in trubble...

AN UNSEASONABLY COOL BREEZE SLIDES DOWN THE HILLSIDES OVERLOOKING THE **GUTHRIE** FAMILY FARM IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

IT IS A QUIET NIGHT... AS THE INDIFFERENT STARS LOOK DOWN FROM THE COLD, DARK SKY...

...IN SHORT, A TYPICAL NIGHT IN THE HUMBLE PLACE. TYPICAL UNTIL...

...THE PHALANX COME.

SHATHAKK!

MOMMA!

PAIGE! oh, LORD-- STAY BACK!!

TARGET ACQUIRED: IMPEDIMENT RUSE ENACTED.

NO! AH'M NOT GONNA LET YOU GO, MOMMA! AH'M NOT!!

J-JOSHUA-- W-WHAT IS THAT?!

AH DUNNO, 'LISABETH! BUT ALL'A YOU STAY AWAY!

IF AH COULD ONLY GET T'THE BARN AN' GET OUT DADDY'S OLD **SHOTGUN**--!

BUT WE DON' EVEN HAVE TIME FOR THAT!

PAIGE, YOU HANG ON, HEAR, GIRL!!

AH'M TRYIN', JOSH! MY ARM HURTS SO MUCH!

PAIGE, FOR PITY'S SAKE, GIRL--LET GO OF ME!!

BOTH OF YOU--GET THE CHILDREN OUT OF HERE!!

THAT WOULD BE AN ADMIRABLE SACRIFICE ON YOUR PART, HUMAN--

THRUMP!

WOOM!

--WOULD THAT WE WERE TRULY INTERESTED IN ASSIMILATING YOU TO BEGIN WITH.

THE TRUTH IS, THAT WE MERELY SOUGHT TO USE YOU AS BAIT--

--TO LURE IN THE GENERATION NEXT MUTANT!!

MUTANT--?

OH, LORD--NO! YOU'RE AFTER PAIGE?!

TARGET DESIGNATE: GUTHRIE, PAIGE

MUTAGENETIC ABILITIES: TRANSITIONAL BODYMORPH

TARGET: ACQUIRED

MOMMA!

IT'S GOT PAIGE NOW!

TARGET ASSIMILATION: IMPEDED, AS EXPECTED. PROCEED WITH RETRIEVAL.

USE YOUR POWERS, PAIGE! DO SOMETHING!!

YOU KNOW SHE CAN'T JUST CHANGE AT WILL, JOSH!

TARGET: SUCCESSFULLY RETRIEVED AND REMOVED FROM PREMISES.

PAIGE... MY BABY... MY GOD...

WHAT CAN WE DO, MOMMA?

AH DON'T KNOW, JEB... MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY ON US...

...AH DON'T KNOW...

"...'CAUSE AH GET THE STRONG FEELIN' THAT NOT EVEN YOUR BROTHER SAM, OR CHARLES XAVIER AN' HIS X-MEN--

--ARE IN ANY POSITION T'SAVE YOUR SISTER NOW!"

AND THE NIGHT AIR GROWS COLDER...

MEANWHILE...

HEY, FROSTY, WHAT THE HECK'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?!!

WELL, CHILD--

--SINCE MY TELEPATHIC ABILITIES APPARENTLY NO LONGER HOLD SWAY OVER THESE CREATURES AS THEY DID AT XAVIER'S--

--AND YOU, OBVIOUSLY, ARE *STILL* A NOVICE DESPITE YOUR BRAVADO--

--I WOULD SAY THAT WE'RE GOING TO *DIE!*

TARGET ASSIMILATION IS AN INELIGIBLE ACTION.

PROCEED TO ELIMINATE FROST, EMMA IN ORDER TO FACILITATE RETRIEVAL OF GENERATION NEXT TARGET: LEE, JUBILATION.

STAY BEHIND ME, GIRL--

--AND CLOSE YOUR EYES...

hmmm... good plan... no wonder yer Hellions're toast!

SCHPLWCHT!

WHAT--?!

GROSS!

uhm... what happened?

LOOKS LIKE THESE CLOWNS CAN'T COMPENSATE FER IRISH'S POWERS--

--'LONG AS HE CHANGES THE FREQUENCY O' HIS SONIC SCREAM!

sqqchik chik chik IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME

CREED, VICTOR shikkzz shik

BEFORE DESIGNATE: BANSHEE'S WAVELENGTH SPECTRUM

HAS BEEN ANALYZED AND COMPENSATED FOR.

BIG DEAL... YOU'LL STILL HAVE ME TEARIN' YER GUTS INSIDE OUT!

TRY T' COMPENSATE FER THAT!

SABRETOOTH PUTS ON A BRAVE FRONT, BUT HE KNOWS FULL-WELL THE TRUE MEASURE OF HIS OPPONENTS.

IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE'RE OVER-WHELMED.

SOLUTION FOUND TO DESIGNATE: BANSHEE'S SONIC CRIES

TO PREVENT HIS SHOUTS, PLACE TECHNO-ORGANIC MATTER INSIDE HIS THROAT CAVITY

COME HERE, JUBILATION.

hey-- what're you--?!

EVERETT, OPEN YOUR MIND TO MINE. AND IF YOU WISH TO SURVIVE THIS NIGHT, YOUNG MAN--

--DO NOT RESIST ME NOW, FOR THIS MAY BE OUR LAST HOPE OF ESCAPING!

I AM GOING TO LINK OUR THREE MINDS--

IF BANSHEE IS TO LIVE--

GRRYAAARRHGG!

--I MUST BECOME A *TELEPATHIC CONDUIT* BETWEEN YOU AND JUBILEE.

IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR MUTANT ABILITIES *CORRECTLY*, EVERETT...

...YOU MUST SEE JUBILEE *THROUGH* MY EYES TO *ACCESS* HER PYROKINETIC ABILITIES WITH YOUR OWN POWERS--

--AND USE *HER* MUTANT GIFT IN WAYS *SHE* HAS BEEN *AFRAID* TO!

IN SHORT, BY *DETONATING* THE VERY *MATTER* WITH WHICH THESE TECHNO-ORGANIC BEINGS ARE COMPOSED OF ON A *SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL!!*

THE EXPLOSION CREATED BY EVERETT THOMAS, IN SYNCHRONOUS TUNE WITH JUBILATION LEE--

--MAKES THE SONIC WAIL OF THE BANSHEE SEEM LIKE A MERE WHISPER IN COMPARISON.

KRAKA-BOOM!

THE DUST SETTLES. THE X-MEN SURVIVE.

THE PHALANX--AT LEAST FOR NOW--HAVE NOT.

DID I JUST *DO* THAT?

NO. I DID.

EVEN BETTER.

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, CASSIDY.

EVENTUALLY, THEIR COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE WILL *RE-CONFIGURE* THE TECHNO-ORGANIC MATTER INTO A *NEW* PHALANX.

'EVENTUALLY,' FROST?

of course. For we of the phalanx can be anywhere-- ANYTIME.

you performed impressively here, but in the overall scheme of things, x-men, this is a MINOR victory, at best.

LANG--?! YOU'RE INVOLVED IN THIS?!

YE *ARE* STEPHEN LANG-- THE MADMAN WHO TRIED T' KILL THE X-MEN YEARS AGO WITH A SENTINEL ATTACK-- INSIDE O' ALL THAT RUBBISH, AREN'T YE?

in a manner of speaking, cassidy. actually, i am *PROJECTING* my consciousness *THROUGH* the T-O MESH.

but that is unimportant. what *DOES* matter, however, is that you recognize the fact that resistance is *TRULY FUTILE.*

you see, x-men, this day of triumph over your kind has been in preparation for a long, *LONG* time.

SAINTS PRESERVE US --SARA?!

indeed, *SARA GREY,* long-missing sister of your marvel girl.

she is a *RECALCITRANT* sort, never *REALLY* sublimating her stubborn will properly to the interests of the phalanx.

her mental strength is truly remarkable-- much like her sister's.

but, in the end, she acquiesced to our wishes.

and in *MANY* ways, we've had the *HELP* of those who knew you best... candy southern, cameron hodge...

...and *THIS* old friend...

JEAN-- DON'T LET-- FIND JEAN-- HELP-- MY-- SIS...TER...

but i showed her to you to prove a point.

we KNOW you, x-men. we OWN you! inside and out!

For you see, the phalanx ROSE from the ashes of TWO things which you're VERY familiar with.

the techno-organic REMAINS of your deceased comrade, WARLOCK--

--and my own burning, breathing, living HATRED for your entire pathetic species!!

LANG, LISTEN TO ME-- YOU HAVE TO SEE THROUGH YOUR IDIOTIC PREJUDICE--

--AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT THE PHALANX HAVE GROWN FAR BEYOND YOUR ABILITY TO CONTROL THEM! YOU'RE PLAYING WITH FIRE, LANG!

what i have done, Frost, is create something that allows humans to climb one rung HIGHER than mutants on the EVOLUTIONARY LADDER to defend themselves!

through the phalanx, mankind will FINALLY be able to EXPUNGE itself of the threat mutants have posed for so long!

THESE ARE NO LONGER SIMPLY FANATICS WHO HAVE ACCEPTED THE TRANSMODE VIRUS--THEY'RE SOMETHING MORE!

and with every moment you waste, ANOTHER step is taken towards accomplishing this goal!

recognize this child? while you were fighting to save everett thomas--

--PAIGE GUTHRIE HAS BEEN TAKEN!

and so, ANOTHER of your precious next generation of mutants falls to the ONSLAUGHT of the phalanx!

i will see you BROKEN, mutants, in SPIRIT as well as BODY--THE AGE OF HUMANITY IS ASSURED!

AND WHAT HAVE YOU UNLEASHED ON THIS WORLD IN ORDER FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, LANG?

GO! CONTINUE TO DELUDE YOURSELF INTO THINKING THAT THE PHALANX ARE MERELY A MEANS TO ERADICATE MUTATION FROM THE EARTH!

DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU'RE IN DANGER OF SACRIFICING THE VERY HUMANITY YOU SEEK SO DESPERATELY TO PROTECT?

HATE NEVER STOPS TO REASON, EMMA. YOU MORE'N ANYONE SHOULD KNOW THAT!

BUT HE HAS ANOTHER ONE O' THE KIDS, BLAST HIS HIDE!!

WE HAVE ONE ADVANTAGE LANG ISN'T AWARE OF, CASSIDY.

WHEN HE SHOWED US THE GUTHRIE GIRL, I WAS ABLE TO MAKE TELEPATHIC CONTACT WITH HER PSYCHIC IMPRINT.

YOU'RE SAYIN' YE CAN TRACK THE LASS DOWN?

WOULD THAT I COULD.

THE CONTACT WAS FLEETING, AT BEST. I CAN PIN-POINT A GENERAL LOCATION.

IT'LL HAVE T'DO, THEN.

LET'S FIND OUT HOW MANY MORE FROM THE LIST THEY'VE GOTTEN OFF WITH--

--AN' THEN WE RAID THEIR STRONGHOLD T'SAVE THOSE POOR SOULS!

GUYS! GUYS! LISTEN TO ME!

HAVEN'T YA NOTICED SOMEONE'S BEEN KINDA CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT BY HIS SILENCE...

NOT TO MENTION HIS CHARMING PERSONALITY.

WHAT--?!?

GOOD LORD! THE WRIST-DETONATOR--!

SAINTS PRESERVE US... IT WAS DAMAGED DURING THE FIGHT WITH THE PHALANX! HE KNEW IT! BLAST HIM-- HE DID IT!

AS IF THINGS WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH...

SABRE-TOOTH HAS ESCAPED !!

THE LAST HOPE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION? FIND OUT IN UNCANNY X-MEN #317 !!

A LOOK BACK ON THE LIFE OF THE ONCE AND FUTURE X-MAN

BISHOP TIMELINE

Bishop travels back in time to the twenty-first century to capture the mutant known as Trevor Fitzroy.

In spite of the unexpected return of Magneto & Acolytes and the death of Colossus' sister from the Legacy Virus, Bishop begins to realize that his future is not absolute.

Bishop attacks the very man he believes to be the future traitor.

Bishop is the only defense against another attack on the team from within- this time, by Sabretooth. Bishop saves Jubilee's life. She leaves the team.

Bishop is stopped by a grief-stricken Colossus, who lures a frightened Kamar Kiyosaki into the mansion to take one of his killer hostages.

Wolverine leaves the team. Professor Xavier kidnaps Magneto.

The formation of Generation X

or

or

or

Bishop finds himself face-to-face with the very heroes he has modeled his life after... the X-Men.

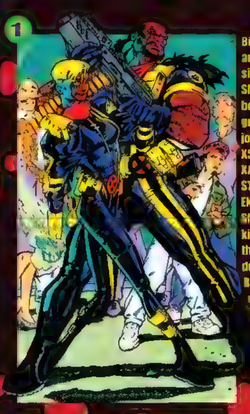
Bishop joins the team.

Bishop discovers the traitor to the team, and is killed in the battle to defend the other X-Men.

A new destiny is thus forged.

Bishop discovers and stops the traitor to the X-Men. The future he came from no longer exists. He is free to forge a new destiny.

Bishop discovers traitor on the team and is killed. The traitor goes on to betray the X-Men and thus creates the same future Bishop came from.

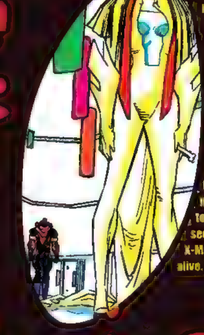


Bishop and his sister Shard are born and grow to join the XSE--the XAVIER STUDENT ENFORCERS. Shard is killed in the line of duty. Bishop feels responsible for her death.

There, they discover a recording of the X-Men's last transmission--a message foretelling the death of the team and of a traitor in their midst.

This last man is apparently Remy LeBeau, the X-Man known as Gambit. Bishop then leaves and resumes his hunt for Fitzroy.

Bishop, Malcolm and Kimball track the escaping criminal Fitzroy and discover the underground war room of the X-Men.



Bishop, in an effort to discover what happened, flies to the Pool, a maximum security prison, and approaches the last man known to have seen the X-Men alive.

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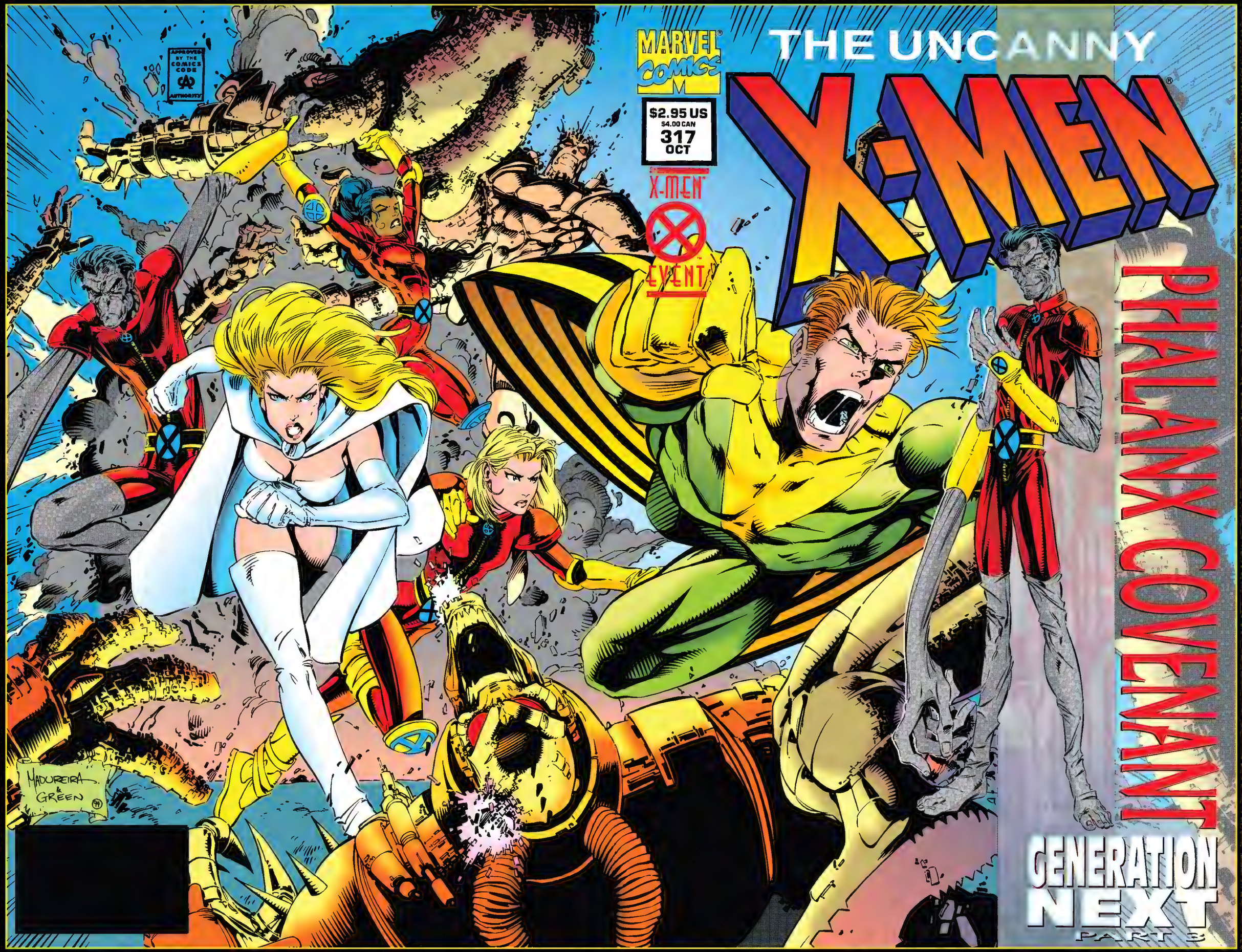
X-MEN #36 FOLDOUT "X-MEN TIMELINE" POSTER



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317
OCT
X-MEN
EVENT
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
PHALANX COVENANT
GENERATION NEXT
PART 3
MADUREIRA & GREEN

LIKE MOST AMERICAN TEENAGERS, PAIGE GUTHRIE BELIEVES SHE'S SEEN IT ALL.

BEEN THERE.

DONE IT.

JUST TODAY, FOR EXAMPLE, SHE WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HER FAMILY'S FARM-HOUSE IN KENTUCKY...

...LOST A BATTLE TO A HANDFUL OF TECHNO-ORGANIC BEINGS CALLED THE PHALANX--

--AND TAKEN HERE TO THIS UNKNOWN PLACE--

--WHERE SHE IS JUST NOW RE-TURNING TO CONSCIOUSNESS.

A FACT, SHE'LL SOON DISCOVER--

--MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY BE A PLUS.

FEELS LIKE SOMEBODY'S...

...BEEN USIN' THE BACK O' MAH NECK FOR...

...A PIN CUSHION.

GUESS AH SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE PAIN...

...IT MEANS AH'M STILL ALIVE.

HOW WEIRD...

...THE PHALANX WOULD BE RUDE ENOUGH TO KID-NAP ME UNDER THE THREAT OF DEATH...

...BUT POLITE ENOUGH TO COVER ME WITH A...

...BLANKET?!

MOST AMERICAN TEENAGERS, UPON DISCOVERING THEY'VE BEEN DRAPED IN THE DISTENDED SKIN OF A MUTANT BOY...

...MIGHT BE SHOCKED, STARTLED.

OR PERHAPS, JUSTIFIABLY SQUEAMISH.

BUT AS THE YOUNGER SISTER OF X-FORCE'S CANNONBALL, PAIGE ALREADY FANCIES HERSELF SOMETHING OF AN X-MAN THROUGH ASSOCIATION.

CONSEQUENTLY, SHE MANAGES A CALM, COLLECTED...

UM... HELLO.

BUENOS DIAS, CHICA, WELCOME TO HELL.

GOSH, ANGELO! THERE'S NO CALL TO TALK LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF THE WOMEN.

THEY'RE NO DOUBT FRIGHTENED ENOUGH AS IT IS WITHOUT YOU BEING SO... SO NEGATIVE.

EXCUSE ME, GREGOR, BUT I WAS ONLY TRYING TO BE REALISTIC.

SOMEONE--OR ONES--WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO KIDNAP THE FIVE OF US. I DOUBT WE'RE HERE FOR THE CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL.

BOOK THREE OF GENERATION NEXT

ENTER FREELY AND OF YOUR OWN WILL

Stan Lee PRESENTS GENERATION X IN THE PHALANX COVENANT

SCOTT LOBDELL WRITER
JOE MADUREIRA PENCILER
DAN GREEN INKER
STEVE BUCCELLATO - COLORIST
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS - LETTERER
BOB HARRAS - EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO - EDITOR IN CHIEF

THOSE "SOMEONES" ARE CALLED THE PHALANX -- A TECHNO-ORGANIC ALIEN *RACE* WITH NO *GREAT LOVE* OF *MUTANTS*...

...WHICH IS WHAT *AH* AM -- AND WHAT *AH AM* ASSUMING WE *ALL ARE.*

BUT DON'T *PANIC*, ANYONE! I'LL GET US OUT O' HERE AND WE'LL *CONTACT* PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP US -- PEOPLE CALLED THE *X-MEN.*

THEY'RE A TEAM OF *MUTANTS* WHO PROTECT THE WORLD AGAINST *JUST SUCH* A *THREAT AS* THE PHALANX.

WOW.

GOOD THING THE *COUNTRY MOUSE* SHOWED UP TO SAVE THE DAY.

WHAT DID YOU THINK? WE'VE BEEN SITTING HERE ON OUR THUMBS *WAIT-ING* FOR YOU TO RESCUE US?

IT *AIN'T* GOING TO HAPPEN. WE'VE TRIED *EVERYTHING* TO GET OUT OF HERE.

MY *APOLOGIES*, MR. COMPETENT.

I SAW *YOU* IN A *HEAP*, AND YOUR FRIEND *HERE* IN A *CATATONIC STUPOR* --

--AND AUTO-MATICALLY *ASSUMED* YOU COULD USE HELP.

THERE, THERE, *BOYS* AND *GIRLS*... LET'S NOT *ARGUE* AMONG OURSELVES.

I *BETCHA'* IF WE ALL PITCH IN AND *WORK TOGETHER*, WE'LL ALL BE *HOME* FOR *DINNER.*

YEAH... AND WE CAN PUT ON A SHOW IN THE BARN WHILE WE'RE AT IT, TOO.

ANGELO, IS HE *ALWAYS* LIKE THIS?

HE *HAS BEEN* SINCE I'VE *BEEN* HERE.

it doesn't matter what we try.

we're all going to die.

MY NAME IS PAIGE, DARLIN'. YOU ARE...?

clarice.

LISTEN TO ME, CLARICE, EVERYTHING IS GOIN' T' BE FINE.

I HAVE CERTAIN FRIENDS THAT ARE LOOKING FOR ME RIGHT NOW. FRIENDS THAT WON'T STOP FOR NOTHING-- FOR ANYTHING-- UNTIL I'M FREE.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE'RE ALL WALKING OUT OF HERE TOGETHER.

UNTIL THEN, I NEED YOU TO BE STRONG FOR ME... FOR ALL OF US.

CAN YOU DO THAT, CLARICE?

i can try...

...not to cry.

WE'VE ESTABLISHED YOU MAKE VERY NICE SPEECHES, PAIGE.

NOW WHEN THEY RETURN TO EXPERIMENT ON ONE OF US AGAIN*, PERHAPS YOU CAN BORE THEM INTO SUBMISSION.

MAYBE A CHORUS OF "KUMBAYA" WOULD DO THE TRICK?

*SEE X-MEN #36.--BOB

Paige, tell me...

...i need to know...?

ANYTHING, CLARICE. WHAT IS IT?

will your friends be here...

...before you disappear?

WHU--?! THE TRANS-MODE VIRUS...?!

AH MUST HAVE BEEN INFECTED WHEN AH WAS ATTACKED BY THE ONE CALLED "HARVEST"!

A-AND--IT'S SPREADIN'!

NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT... I'M SURE THE X-MEN WILL BE HERE IN PLENTY OF TIME.

NOT VERY FAR AWAY...

...IN THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO...

...IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA...

THE HANDFUL OF FRIENDS THAT CAN BE OF THE MOST USE TO HER ARE ON THEIR WAY HERE...

...TO THE WEST COAST OFFICES OF FROST ENTERPRISES.

TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, IT IS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE EXCESS OF THE PRIVILEGED CLASS...

...A VICTORIAN TOWN HOUSE BUILT HIGH ATOP A GLEAMING SKY-SCRAPER.

BUT IT IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT. FOR DURING THE YEARS EMMA FROST SPENT AS THE WHITE QUEEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB --

-- SHE HAS MADE MORE THAN HER SHARE OF... DE-TRACTORS.

WHICH IS WHY HER HOME IS ARMED WITH A DEFENSE SYSTEM...

WRRP

KLK

...THAT COST ROUGHLY HALF OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT OF PARAGUAY.

RRRR

K-CHK

A SYSTEM CAPABLE OF TARGETING AND DISPATCHING HOS-TILES AT FIVE HUNDRED YARDS.

AS WELL AS, FORTUNATELY, IDENTIFYING THE MISTRESS OF THE MANOR...

... AND COMPANY. IN THIS CASE, EVERETT THOMAS--

--JUBILATION LEE --

-- AND SEAN CASSIDY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS BANSHEE.

FOR THE MOMENT, ALONG WITH MS. FROST, THEY REPRESENT ALL THAT CURRENTLY EXIST OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN.

THEY'VE BEEN TRAVELING IN ONE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION OR THE OTHER, FOR THE PAST SEVERAL HOURS...

...DESPERATELY FOLLOWING-- VIA EMMA FROST'S TELEPATHIC POWERS-- PAIGE GUTHRIE'S PSIONIC SIGNATURE ALL THE WAY.

A SIGNATURE THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN ST. LOUIS, AND ONE THAT INEXPLICABLY WENT DEAD AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE CALIFORNIA BORDER.

THEY ARE TIRED.

AND WET.

AND HUNGRY.

BUT WORSE THAN THAT IS THE GNAWING FEELING IN THEIR GUTS--

--THAT THEY MAY BE TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING BUT BURY... THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUTANTS.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN...

...IF YOU WOULD? MY PARLOR AWAITS.

SWISH

I'M SURE IT DOES, BUT FIRST A WORD OF CAUTION, LASS.

DINNAE BE DOING ANYTHING SO CHARACTERISTIC AS TRYING T'WAYLAY THE LOT O' US TO USE AS BARGAINING CHIPS AGAINST THE PHALANX.

I WAS BURNED ENOUGH WHEN SABRETOOTH BOLTED FOR PARTS UNKNOWN ...*

...THAT WILLNAE HAPPEN AGAIN.

*SEE X-MEN #36 FOR THE DETAILS.--BOB

WHY YOU ARROGANT... SELF-RIGHTEOUS... DOUBTING... ARROGANT...

YE ALREADY SAID "ARROGANT"...

SHUT UP!

AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU, CASSIDY, YOU DARE QUESTION ME?!

THESE TWO AREN'T VERY CLOSE ?

NOT VERY, NO.

YE'RE RIGHT, EMMA.

SO O'COURSE YE WON'T MIND--

SKK

...IF I USE ME SONIC POWER TO OBLITERATE...

KK

KTKT

...EVERY ONE O' THE DOZEN TARGETING DEVICES...

...YE'VE TRAINED ON US?

KTKT

SKK

KK

HMMP.

ALL THAT TIME IN A COMA... MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN SOME OF THE DEFENSES...

PERFECTLY UNDERSTAND-ABLE.

MY EARS...?

IT'LL PASS.

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

YES, WELL-- IT'S SMALLER THAN I'M USED TO, BUT IN A PINCH...!

YEAH. RIGHT.

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN IN A LIVING ROOM WITH AN ECHO BEFORE.

IT'S SUCH A HOMEY TOUCH.

SEAN?

IT'S A BIT MUCH FOR MY TASTES.

AS A PERFECT GENTLEMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW IT'S RUDE TO INSULT SOMEONE IN THEIR OWN HOME.

NOW TELL US WHAT YE HOPED TO ACCOMPLISH BY BRINGING US HERE. THAT IS, IF'N YE ARE THROUGH TRYING TO IMPRESS US?

I HAVE A WHOLE LIST OF THINGS I CAN DO TO IMPRESS YOU, MR. CASSIDY--

--BUT THERE ARE CHILDREN PRESENT.

SO INSTEAD I'LL PSIONICALLY COMMAND THE COMPUTER TO BRING UP... THIS!

IT REPRESENTS OUR BEST CHANCE OF TRACKING DOWN THE CAPTIVES.

THE SCHEMATICS AND SECURITY PARAMETERS OF THE LOCAL SHIELD SAFE HOUSE?!

WHERE DID YE GET AHOLD O' SUCH INFORMATION?!

SHIELD BAY AREA

ENTRY

MAINTENANCE

MAGNIFY

APPEARANCES TO THE CONTRARY...

... I DIDN'T SPEND ALL MY MONEY ON INTERIOR DECORATING.

MEANWHILE...

... CLOSER THAN ANYONE SUSPECTS...

JEEPERS. IT LOOKS LIKE THE PHALANX MANAGED TO DO TO YOU... WHAT IT COULDN'T TO THE REST OF US.

AS NEAR AS WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO TELL, THEY CAN'T-- WHAT WAS THAT WORD -- "ASSIMILATE" MUTANTS THE WAY THEY DO HUMANS.

IT'S THE WHOLE REASON WE'VE BEEN BROUGHT HERE. WE'RE SORT OF TEST SUBJECTS SO THEY CAN PERFECT THE TECHNIQUE ON US...

... BEFORE THEY TRY IT ON THE X-MEN.

b-but what will become of you?

what will become of you?

AH... DON'T KNOW, GIRL.

AH GUESS IT MEANS AH'M THE FIRST TO--

ENOUGH, CHICA! YOU WERE RIGHT TO BELIEVE THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT.

WE CAN OVERCOME THIS.

WHY THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF ATTITUDE?

JUST BECAUSE I'M OPPRESSIVELY NEGATIVE...

... DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT SMART ENOUGH TO HOPE.

"HOPE"..?

LET ME *TELL* YOU ABOUT "HOPE", CHILDREN.

I WAS A HUMAN BEING *ONCE*. MY NAME WAS...

...

...IT DOESN'T *MATTER*. I WAS A *MAN*. A HUSBAND.

A *FATHER*.

MY HEART WAS FILLED TO *OVERFLOW* WITH HOPE THAT THE WORLD WOULD BE A *BETTER* PLACE...

...IF I WERE ONLY *BRAVE ENOUGH* TO JOIN THE PHALANX, AND *RID* THAT WORLD OF *MUTANTS*.

BUT *THAT* WAS WHEN I WAS A *CARBONITE*.

SOMETHING *LESS* THAN I AM NOW.

NOW I AM CALLED *HARVEST*.

AND I WILL NOT REST UNTIL *ALL* ORGANIC LIFE ON THE PLANET EARTH HAS BEEN CULLED AS CHAFF FROM THE WHEAT.

and we're to sit back while you attack and kill!

no, Harvest...

...not me!

AS WITH MOST MUTANTS, CLARICE FERGUSON REMEMBERS THE FIRST TIME SHE USED HER MUTANT ABILITY.

UNLIKE MANY, SHE RECALLS WAKING UP SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

... IN A POOL OF BLOOD. IN THAT MOMENT, SHE VOWED NEVER TO USE HER POWER AGAINST ANOTHER LIVING BEING.

BUT ALL THAT CHANGES...

...IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

FOR A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT, EVERYTHING THAT IS HARVEST--

--IS SOMEWHERE ELSE!

GET BACK, CLARICE! HE'LL HURT YOU!

Gregor, no!

let me go!

BUT IN THE MOMENT THAT SHE IS HELD BACK--

-- THE TECHNO-ORGANIC PORTAL SPIRALS SHUT IN AUTOMATIC RESPONSE TO THE ASSAULT ON ONE OF ITS OWN.

THE LAST SIGHT THE YOUNG MUTANTS SEE BEFORE THEY ARE ONCE AGAIN ENVELOPED IN THIS CHAMBER--

--IS THAT OF HARVEST REELING IN PAIN, YET--

--RECOVERING.

THEY UNDERSTAND-- HE'LL BE BACK.

INTERESTING.

HOLY COW, GANG-- I HOPE I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!

I WAS JUST AFRAID OF WHAT HE'D DO IF HE GOT A HOLD OF CLARICE!

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, GREGOR...WE'RE ALL NEW TO THIS.

BESIDES, IT WAS EDUCATIONAL.

H-HOW'S THAT, ANGELO?

WE LEARNED THEY APPARENTLY CAN'T DAMPEN OUR POWERS, OR THEY WOULD HAVE.

WHICH MEANS INSTEAD OF US BEING TRAPPED IN HERE WITH THEM...

...THEY'RE TRAPPED IN HERE WITH US.

SO, JUBILEE...

... YOU COME HERE OFTEN?

"NO, EVERETT, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME IN SAN FRANCISCO."

MINE TOO.

THANK YOU FOR ASKING.

UM, LOOK... IF YOU'D RATHER BE ALONE...?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WHEN I FIRST STARTED HANGING WITH THE X-POSSE--

--ALL THIS USED TO BE FUN.

AND NOW?

NOW I HATE IT.

NOT ALL OF IT. I MEAN, I LOVE ALL OF 'EM, EVEN DRAKE.

BUT I HATE THIS FEELING O' BEING USELESS.

I CAN'T STAND KNOWING I CAN'T HELP MY FRIENDS WHEN THEY NEED ME MOST.

I'VE SEEN YOU IN ACTION, JUBILEE-- YOU CAN BE PRETTY...

... IMPRESSIVE.

PUH-LEAZE AND A HALF, EVERETT-- I'M A WALKING FIRECRACKER, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!

WORSER STILL, I'M A SPARKLER.

COMPARED TO PEOPLE LIKE STORM AND BISHOP AND GAMBIT, I AM IN SERIOUS NEED OF TRAINING.

WHEN PUT IN THAT CONTEXT, I'M FORCED TO AGREE WITH YOU.

THAT IS A PRETTY LAME POWER.

SO...

... WHERE DID YOU SAY BANSHEE AND THE WHITE QUEEN HAVE GONE?

"THEY'RE A *MILE AWAY* ON THE *SHORE.*

"SNEAKING INTO THE SAFE HOUSE TO TRY'N GET A *LOCK* ON THE PHALANX PLACE.

"MAKES SENSE. SHIELD EQUIPMENT IS MORE *ADVANCED* THAN EMMA'S."

"BUT HOW CAN THEY *POSSIBLY* BREAK INTO SUCH A *SECURED* AREA, JUBILEE?"

"THEY WERE STILL TRYIN' TO FIGURE *THAT* OUT WHEN THEY *LEFT.*

"AND *FOR* THE *RECORD,* I NEVER SAID MY POWER WAS *LAME!*"

BING!

CHANGE OF SHIFT. *RIGHT* ON TIME.

=SIGH= *EVERYTHING* IS *ALWAYS* RIGHT ON TIME.

HOW DID I EVER LET YE TALK ME INT' THIS, WOMAN?

YOU *AGREED* THE FRONT DOOR WOULD BE THE MOST EX-PEDIENT WAY IN.

AGENT *SANTORA,* ANYTHING TO REPORT?

AYE, BUT USIN' ME SONIC POWER TO CONFUSE THE PHYSICAL *READINGS...*

... WHILE YE'RE *PSIONICALLY* BLOCKING THEIR *PERCEPTIONS* OF US--

--IS MORE'N A WEE BIT *RISKY.*

IS THERE *EVER* ANYTHING TO REPORT?

BUT SEAN, *RISK* IS WHAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING.

REALLY, LASS?

HERE'N I ALWAYS THOUGHT LIVING MADE LIFE WORTH LIVING.

ELSEWHERE...

I REALLY MUST INSIST, GANG. IT'D BE SAFER IF WE STAY PUT AND WAIT FOR THE X-MEN!

not me, i don't agree.

WE NEED TO--

YOU NEED TO BE QUIET.

QUE ?!

GOSH... MS. ST. CROIX. YOU SPOKE!

OUR FIRST PRIORITY, PEOPLE--

-- IS TO FREE OURSELVES FROM THIS, THE FIRST OF MANY PRISONS.

SHICK!

WHILE YOU WERE IN YOUR CATATONIC STUPOR-- NO OFFENSE, MA'AM-- WE REALIZED WE WERE TRAPPED PRETTY DARN GOOD.

SOMEHOW, THE PHALANX IS MONITORING OUR EVERY MOVE!

THEY WERE USING THESE TECHNO-ORGANIC SUITS, IN PART, TO DO SO.

RAW MATERIAL I'VE BEEN ABLE TO RECALIBRATE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE OUR ESCAPE.

...THAT SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY THIS LIGHT.

KRSK!

ALL I REQUIRE IS A POWER SOURCE...

BRZAKT!

NO!

HOW DID YOU KNOW?!

HOW...

...YOU...

00 01 11 10 01 01 00 11 01 10?!

JUST AS THE FOUR YOUNG MUTANTS THOUGHT THEY AT LEAST UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS HAPPENING--

--THEY ARE CONFRONTED BY THE REALIZATION THAT ONE AMONG THEM IS A PHALANX.

BUT AFTER ALL THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH, THEY ADAPT...

MADRE DE DIOS.

WHOA.

yucch.

HE WAS POSING AS ONE OF US, ALL ALONG?!

INCREDIBLE.

HOW DID YOU KNOW, MONET?

THERE ARE PRECIOUS FEW THINGS I DON'T KNOW, SIR.

AT THAT MOMENT...

SO ANY WORD ON THAT TRANSFER, SIR?

YEAH--YOU GOING OVERSEAS, OR NOT?

YOU KNOW HOW THE RED TAPE GOES, GUYS.

LET'S JUST SAY I'M NOT SCOPING OUT ANY NEW PARTNERS JUST YET.

MAYBE I'LL JUST HAVE CHARLES GIVE ME A WHOLE OTHER HEAD ENTIRE--

SHUT UP, SEAN.

... THESE ULTRA-SENSITIVE COMPUTERS ARE PICKING UP A LOW-LEVEL TECHNO-ORGANIC ANOMALY.

TOO LOW TO TRIGGER ANY ALARMS, BUT--

--BUT MAYBE JUST ENOUGH T'BE POINTING ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OF THE CHILDREN?

US, SEAN?

PARDON?

POINTING "US" IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CHILDREN.

DON'T

MOVE.

FR-CHUNK!

!?!

GOOD EVENING, LADS AN' LASSY.

NOW'N THAT YE REALIZE WE'RE HERE...

... I DON'T SUPPOSE YE'D BE AMENABLE TO LISTENING AS TO WHY WE'VE GONE THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE TO--

CLICK!

LOCK!

CHK-CLK!

OF COURSE NOT.

THEN, WOULD YE MIND TELLING US HOW YE T'PIERCE THE WHITE QUEEN'S PSIONIC ILLUSION?

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN MASKING YOUR BODIES, BANSHEE.

BUT THE PUDDLES AT YOUR FEET WERE APPARENTLY NOT IN HER SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

FOR THE RECORD -- YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR TRESPASSING ON GOVERNMENT PROPERTY. FOR STARTERS.

THAT IS, YOU AND THE MIND WITCH, OF COURSE.

MR. CASSIDY AND I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

WE WERE TRYING TO GET IN AND OUT WITHOUT HURTING ANYONE.

BUT IF YOU'RE TELLING ME I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FRY YOUR MINDS IN ORDER TO LEAVE WITH THE INFORMATION WE NEED, I'D BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO ACCOMMO-DATE YOU --

BUT BEFORE SHE CAN TURN THOUGHT INTO DEED...

... BANSHEE TAKES THE INITIATIVE WITH HIS SONIC SCREAM!

EXCUSE ME, PEOPLE.

SURE'N YUIR EARS'LL BE RINGING FOR A DAY OR TWO --

-- BUT, BELIEVE ME, 'TIS BETTER THAN THE ALTERNATIVE.

YOU REALIZE I WAS ONLY BLUFFING.

I DINNAE DOUBT IT.

TYPE FASTER.

TING

LISTEN CLOSELY, BECAUSE I ONLY HAVE TIME TO GO OVER THIS ONCE.

THE PHALANX, IT WOULD SEEM, HAVE BEEN UNDONE BY THEIR OWN SHREWDNESS.

THE HARVESTER, IN HIS ATTEMPT TO MONITOR US, PLACED "GREGOR" HERE AS A PLANT. A RUSE BETRAYED, IN PART, BY GREGOR'S OVER-DEPENDENCE ON OBVIOUSLY ANTIQUATED COLLOQUIAL-ISMS.

JUDGING BY THE BIO-ELECTRIC DAMAGE I INFLICTED BY ATTUNING "HIM" TO THE CORE CELL OF THE PHALANX ENERGY LINK-UP...

... I'VE NO DOUBT FUSED OPEN A COMM-LINK UPLOAD, CREATING THE PHOTOTRONIC ILLUSION WE ARE STILL BEING MONITORED WHILE, IN TRUTH, WE WILL BE ESCAPING.

ANY QUESTIONS?

UM... JUST ONE.

WHAT THE

SO YOU'RE SAYIN' YOU THINK YOU CAN GET US OUT OF HERE?

AT THE VERY LEAST WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THIS PARTICULAR TECHNO-ORGANIC CHAMBER.

AFTER THAT-- IT WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY ON HOW CREATIVE WE ARE WHEN IT COMES TO OUR SURVIVAL.

NOW, IF I MIGHT HAVE A MOMENT TO CONCENTRATE ... ?

but... when harvester entered before...

... the door was over there.

YES. I KNOW.

WHICH IS WHY *WE'LL* BE LEAVING FROM OVER HERE.

WHAM!

I'M IMPRESSED, CHICA. BUT IS THERE A REASON YOU DIDN'T DO THAT *EARLIER*?!

TWO SPRING TO MIND, MR. *ESPINOSA*...

...IF WE MANAGE TO *SURVIVE* THIS, I MIGHT BE WILLING TO DISCUSS IT AT LENGTH.

NOW, IF WE COULD GET *GOING*...?

CERTAINLY. AND MONET...?

GRACIAS.

CERTAINLY.

KEEP AN... EYE ON THEM... GAL.

PAIGE...?

IT'S THE *T.O.-VIRUS* ISN'T IT? THE INFECTION IS *SPREADING*...

BEEN FIGHTIN' IT F'WHILE...

... BUT 'FEELS LIKE MUH

GUTS ON FIRE.

GO ON...

...WITHOUT... ME.

AH'D ONLY... SLOW Y'ALL UP...

IMMINENTLY LOGICAL.

YOUR CONDITION CERTAINLY PUTS THE *REST* OF US AT *RISK*.

BUT, UNTIL YOU ARE ACTUALLY EITHER *DEAD* OR *ASSIMILATED* INTO THEIR UNHOLY COVENANT...

...IT IS A RISK I'M WILLING TO TAKE.

WUMP!

no sign of the phalanx?

reason enough to give thanks.

ON THE *CONTRARY*, MS. FERGUSON. WE ARE SURROUNDED ON *ALL SIDES* BY A *HOSTILE* LIFE FORM...

...CAPABLE OF USING EITHER ORGANIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL MATTER TO REPLICATE ITSELF TO THE *NTH* DEGREE.

AN ENEMY THAT IS *OUT THERE*.

WAITING FOR US.

IN THE *DARKNESS*...

NEXT ISSUE: THE END OF THE PHALANX COVENANT... OR THE END OF THE X-MEN? SEE X-MEN #37 FOR THE ANSWER!

CABLE TIMELINE

A LOOK BACK ON THE RISE OF THE ASKANI'SON

1 Nathan Christopher Summers is born to Scott Summers and Madelyne Pryor. Madelyne Pryor is mysteriously the exact image of the deceased Marvel Girl.

2 Upon hearing that her husband's first love, Jean Grey, is alive, Madelyne takes baby Nathan and runs away from home. They fall into the clutches of Mr. Sinister.

3 Madelyne discovers that she is not human at all, but only a shadowy clone of Jean Grey. She attacks both the X-Men and X-Factor for revenge, only to be betrayed by Mr. Sinister. Nathan is saved.

4 Later, Nathan is exposed to a techno-virus by Apocalypse and is taken by Askani almost 2000 years into the future to be cured.

5 There the techno-organic virus takes its toll on Nathan's body, in hopes of saving Nathan, Askani Mother Askani-Rachel Summers is cloned by the

6 A married couple named Slyvn and Redd raise the young Nathan as their own son, and train him in the ways of humanity in a final rebellion against Apocalypse. The clone Stryfe is mind-melded with Apocalypse. Slyvn and Redd disappear.

7 Nathan grows up and adopts the name Cable. He becomes proficient in the ways of war in countless battles with Apocalypse and time travel. And, after having a son named Tyler, he travels back 2000 years to the present where he leads a mercenary group known as the Six Pack.

8 Shortly after Cable is separated from his team and takes over the leadership reins of X-Force. Former students of Professor Charles Xavier, X-Force is forged into a band of outlaw mutants prepared for the atrocities the future holds for them.

9 Stryfe is revealed to be the clone of Nathan from the future and tries to assassinate Professor Charles Xavier. Xavier survives the attack.

10 Cable confronts Stryfe in a final violent clash on the dark side of the moon. Stryfe's final revenge is to release a virus into the atmosphere that suits mutants, Stryfe and Cable disappear.

11 Cable returns and is followed by Stryfe and Tyler.

12 Stryfe dies in this final confrontation. Tyler disappears.

13 Cable finds over time and tries to reacquaint himself with Cyclops, the father he never knew. Cable begins to suspect that Jean Grey and Scott Summers were somehow the Redd and Slyvn who had helped raise him 2000 years in the future.

14 Cable confronts Stryfe and Cable disappear.

15 Cable's cure for the Legacy Virus and sound defeat of Apocalypse lead to a new future free of Apocalypse's rule.

16 Apocalypse survives Cable's attack and manages to pursue Cable and the X-clone but his dream to rule the world.

17 Moira MacTaggert and Charles Xavier discover that Cable is slain by Apocalypse.

18 Cable is slain by Apocalypse. Tyler is left alone to carry on the legacy of his father.

or

or

or

Formation of Generation X

GENERATION X

CABLE

FATHERS SONS

MARVEL COMICS

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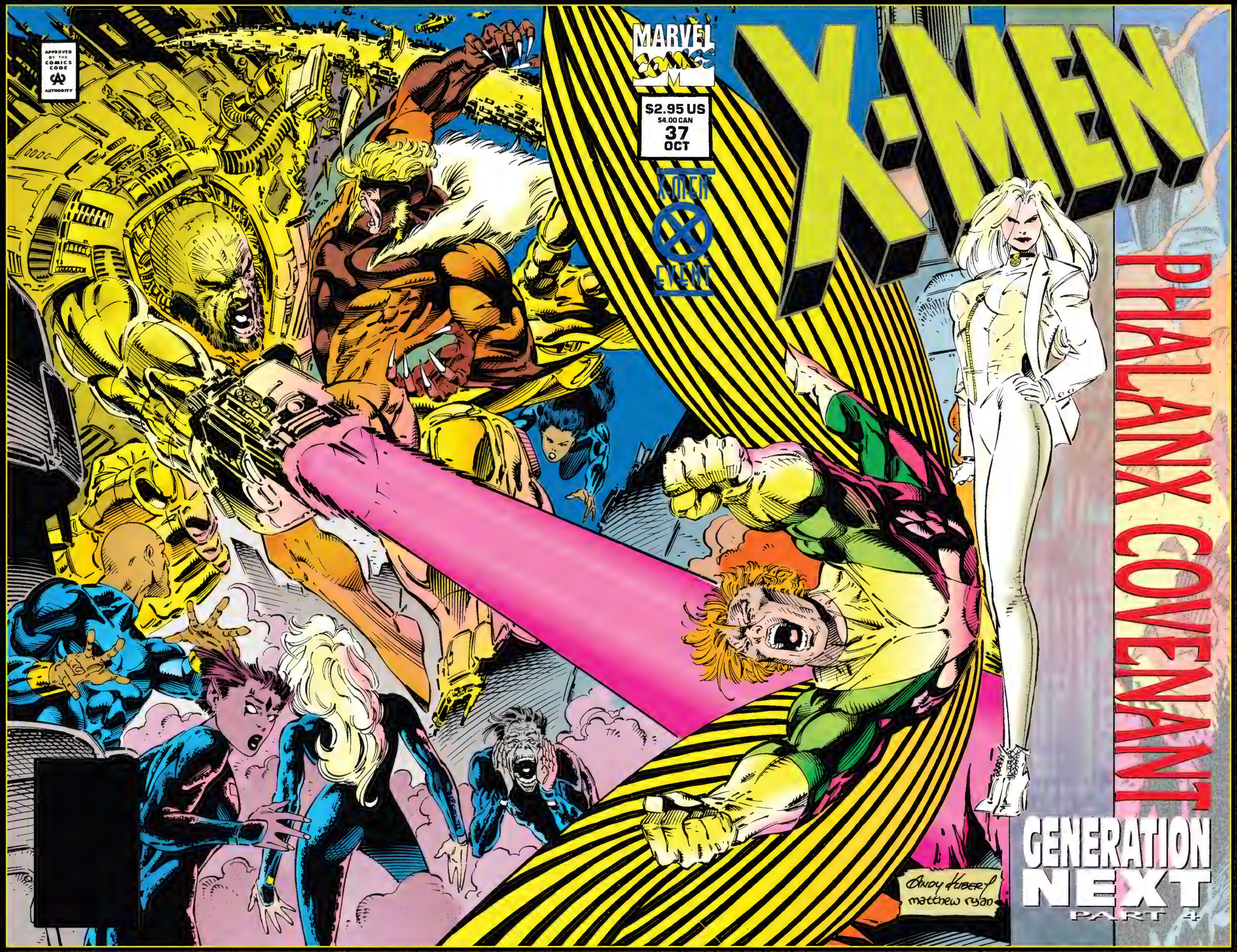
UNCANNY X-MEN #317 FOLDOUT "X-MEN TIMELINE" POSTER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37
OCT
X-MEN
X-MEN EVENT
PHALANX COVENANT
GENERATION NEXT
PART 4
Andy Kubert
matthew ryan

prologue:

...WITH A COLD, WRENCHING, INDIFFERENT FORCE.

SHE IS A MUTANT.

THAT IS WHY SHE IS IN THIS POSITION TO BEGIN WITH...

...AND WHY SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.

BUT SHE IS AFRAID.

NOT ONLY OF HER OWN INBRED POWERS...

...BUT OF THE CREATURES WHO NOW CLAW AT HER.

THEY ARE CALLED THE PHALANX--

--HUMANS WHO HAVE BEEN INFECTED--WILLINGLY OR NOT--WITH THE ALIEN TRANSMODE VIRUS--

--WHICH TRANSFORMED THEM INTO TECHNO-ORGANIC KILLING MACHINES, BENT ON RIDDING THE WORLD OF ITS NATIVE POPULATION.

SHE SCREAMS AS THEY PULL AT HER...

IT APPEARS TO CLARICE FERGUSON, AS SHE HEARS A POP IN HER SHOULDER, AND FEELS A SEARING FLASH OF PAIN--

--THAT THIS GENOCIDE BEGINS WITH HER DEATH, AND THOSE OF THE THREE OTHER MUTANT YOUTHS--

--ANGELO ESPINOSA, MONET ST. CROIX AND PAIGE GUTHRIE--

--WHO, LIKE HER, HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY THE PHALANX AND BROUGHT TO AN ABANDONED NAVY DESTROYER ANCHORED IN THE MIDDLE OF SAN DIEGO BAY.

CLARICE-- YOU GOT TA USE YOUR POWERS! YOU GOTTA!!

THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO TO FREE HER SHORT OF BREAKING HER IN HALF!

DO IT, GIRL! "BLINK" THIS SUCKER TO PIECES!!

CLARICE CRIES OUT IN PANIC--

I CAN'T, PAIGE--

--I'M SO SCARED--!

--HER EYES FLARE--

--AND A WARM GLOW SLICES THROUGH HER BODY... AND THE GIRL NICKNAMED "BLINK" FEELS HER POWER FLOW FROM HER-- AND CUT THROUGH HER ATTACKER!

FOR A MOMENT, THERE IS NOTHING BUT SILENCE--

turn the page for book one generation next

--A MOMENT'S PEACE SHATTERED BY THE INHUMAN SOUND OF THE PHALANX SCREAMING IN AGONY--

--AS HIS "BODY" RECOVERS FROM BEING SEGMENTED FOR THE BRIEFEST OF INSTANTS BY BLINK'S PHASING PULSE.

YOU DID IT, CLARICE!!

IT'S OKAY NOW, SWEETIE-- ANGELO'S GOT YOU!

DIS-DISS-- FUNK-FUNK-FUNCTION-- SYSSSTEMMS--

MASSIVE NEURAL DISRUPTION --PAIN-- INTENSE...

TRULY, CREATURE --THEN CONSIDER HOW THIS FEELS.

THE MYSTERIOUS MUTANT GIRL CALLED M CALMLY STEPS FORWARD...

WOW

NIÑA, QUE ESTAS HACIENDO?

DID YA KILL THAT MAN?!

I HAVEN'T A CLUE, ESPINOZA.

WHO'S TO SAY IT WAS EVEN A MAN? OR TRULY ALIVE, AS WE CONCEIVE THE TERM?

BUT DID YOU HEAR HIM? HE SOUNDED VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER PHALANX WE'VE ENCOUNTERED!

MONY'S RIGHT.

"MONY"--?

SOMETHIN'S WEIRD ABOUT THESE PHALANX. BUT, TRUTH T' TELL, GANG...

--OH MY LORD--

...AH DON'T THINK WE'RE GONNA GET THE CHANCE T' FIND OUT WHAT...!

...AND WITH ONE PUNCH, OBLITERATES THE DISRUPTED PHALANX--

--SCATTERING ITS AMALGAMATED BODY PARTS ACROSS THE RUSTED DECK OF THE DESTROYER.

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

THE CURRENTS SHIFT

THE COVENANT ENDS AS GENERATION X BEGINS!!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: FABIAN NICIEZA WRITER • ANDY KUBERT PENCILER • RYAN/SELLERS INKER

BILL OAKLEY LETTERER
KEVIN SOMERS COLOR ART
BOB HARRAS COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE
TOM DEFALCO ASSIMILATING HOT DOGS

YOU ARE CORRECT, CARBON-MOTE.

IN SURMISING BOTH THAT THE PHALANX WHO SERVE ME ARE ILL-FORMED...

...AND IN THE ASSUMPTION THAT YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER WHY.

FOR THE HARVEST TIME HAS COME-- AND THE CROP SHALL BE MUTANTS!

IT IS FITTING THAT THE LAST OF YOU WILL BE THE FIRST TO FALL BEFORE THE CULLING SCYTHE OF THE PHALANX!!

...AND THAT WE PARTICULAR "CROPS" AIN'T READY T'BE KILLED!

AH-- I-- KNOW ABOUT FARMIN', Y'KNOW...

YOUR ARROGANCE BELIES THE HOPELESSNESS OF YOUR POSITION, FEMALE.

YOU AND ALL YOUR KIND WILL FALL TO OUR ONSLAUGHT--

--BECAUSE IT FITS IN WITH THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WHICH FIRST SPAWNED MUTANTS--

--THAT A NEW SPECIES WOULD EVENTUALLY RISE TO REPLACE YOU!!

HATE T'TELL YOU THIS, HARVEST, BUT WE WERE BORN THIS WAY...

...WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

I WAS MADE-- TRANSFORMED! I VOLUNTEERED TO BECOME THAT MUCH BETTER THAN YOUR KIND--*

*SEE UNCANNY X-MEN #308--308

--LOSING ALL I HAD-- MY FAMILY, MY HUMANITY-- MY VERY LIFE!

AND ALL SO THAT I WOULD RISE ONE RUNG ABOVE YOU ON THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER--

--IN ORDER TO SERVE THE COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE-- THE COVENANT TO HELP ELIMINATE MUTANTS FROM THIS WORLD, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

FOR SOME-ONE SERVIN' A "COLLECTIVE," YOU SURE SAY "ME" AND "I" A WHOLE LOT!

I WILL NOT DENY THAT FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO ME, MY ACCESS TO THE PHALANX HIVE HAS BEEN SEVERED.

BUT THIS ISOLATION WILL NOT PREVENT ME FROM ACHIEVING MY GOAL!

AND NOTHING AND NO ONE WILL STOP ME!

SPLASH!

QUIETLY, EVERETT, M'LAD.

WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY O' THE PHALANX CREATURES ARE HERE OR WHERE THEY ARE...

...BUT I DO HEAR ONE O' THEM ABOVE.

--IT'S EITHER HEAR VERY WELL OR BE DEAF, aye?

WE'RE IN!

ONCE WE TARGETED THIS AREA, FINDING WHERE THE BEASTIES HAD TAKEN THE YOUNG MUTANTS WASN'T DIFFICULT--

--THERE'VE BEEN MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES OF PEOPLE REPORTED ALONG THESE DOCKS--

--AND WITH WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM THE OTHER X-MEN UNITS--

--THAT THE PHALANX SEEM T' HAVE A PREDISPOSITION TO HEIGHTS AN' LARGE METALLIC OBJECTS--

THAT'S QUITE A PAIR OF EARS YOU GOT, BANSHEE!

WITH ME POWERS BEIN' WHAT THEY ARE, SON--

--THIS DECOMMIS-SIONED SHIP SEEMED THE ONLY PLACE THEY COULD BE!

"NOW THE TASK IS T'FIND THE OTHERS LIKE YOURSELF, THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUTANTS-- WHO'VE BEEN TARGETED BY THESE CREATURES--

"--AND PRAY THAT *EMMA FROST* AND *JUBILEE* BOTH HAD AS LITTLE TROUBLE FINDING THEIR WAY ABOARD AS WE DID."

YOU GET A *BRAIN-TAP* ON ANYTHIN' YET, FROSTY?

IF YOU ARE ASKING WHETHER I HAVE TELE-PATHICALLY LOCATED THE KIDNAPED MUTANTS--

--THE ANSWER IS YES.

THEY ARE TOGETHER-- BUT VERY AGITATED AND VERY *FRIGHTENED.*

I AM ALSO PICKING UP TRACE PATTERNS OF THE PHALANX PRESENCE, BUT THEY ARE *NOT* LIKE THOSE SIGNA-TURES WE'VE ENCOUNT-ERED BEFORE.

WELL, I'LL SEND SOME *SPARKLES* UP TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE SITCH--

PAFF!

--AND WOULD YOU MIND PARLAYING ALL THAT INTO *ANGLAIS, SILL VOWS PLATES?*

I'M UNCERTAIN WHAT I FIND *MORE* HORRIFIC, *JUBILEE*--

--THE FACT THAT YOU APPEAR TO BE TAKING *FRENCH* LESSONS FROM *GAMBIT*--

--OR THAT THE PHALANX ARE *DESPERATE* ENOUGH TO USE THE *TRANSMODE VIRUS* TO INCULCATE *RATS* INTO THEIR COLLECTIVE!

EEYAAGH! MAJOR GROSS OUT! BUT I CAN PAFF *THESE* THINGS INTA MICKEY-PIZZA--

SHAPAFF

--AN' I WON'T FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT!

SO IS THAT WHY YOU'VE HELD BACK ON USING YOUR MUTANT ABILITIES--

--FOR FEAR OF HURTING SOME-ONE?

uhm... I PRACTICALLY BLEW UP A WHOLE HOUSE IN HONG KONG ONCE, Y'KNOW.

AND YOU WORRY OVER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU EVER UNLEASHED YOUR POWERS?

IT'S PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE FOR YOU TO BE A LITTLE AFRAID, JUBILATION-- YOUR POTENTIAL IS RATHER FORMIDABLE.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, PERHAPS IT'S TIME THAT PEOPLE LIKE ME...

...SEE TO IT THAT YOUNGSTERS LIKE YOU ARE BETTER TAUGHT AND TRAINED THAN THE PREVIOUS GROUP OF YOUNG MUTANTS UNDER OUR CHARGE... WE OWE THEM THAT MUCH, AT LEAST.

"THAT IS ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT WE'RE CAPABLE OF KEEPING YOUR GENERATION ALIVE!"

I KNOW THIS SOUNDS PRETTY CRAZY-- BUT DID ANYONE ELSE BUT ME HEAR FIREWORKS?

IT IS THE SOUND OF FUTILITY YOU HEAR, CARBONITE!

THE X-MEN HAVE ARRIVED TO TRY AND RESCUE YOU--

--BUT THEY SHALL NOT SUCCEED!

Grrfshshshh

WHAT WAS THAT SOUND--?

A GROWL --?

HRAAAGGG!!

SABRETOOTH!?!

PAIGE, IS THIS ONE O' THE X-MEN YOU SAID WAS GONNA BE SAVIN' US?

RRRIPPGESH

WELL, HE'S DEFINITELY NOT WOLVERINE.

SABRETOOTH, HE SAID? errr... HE'S NO X-MAN AH EVER SAW, GANG...

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, FRAIL!

AN' YOU BETTER BE GRATEFUL FOR THAT!

CHAK!

ULTIMATELY, YOUR SAVAGERY IS POINTLESS, SABRE-TOOTH.

OH NO, NO, NO... HE'S GETTING EVEN BIGGER--

--HOW CAN WE STOP HIM--?

FOR EVERY LIMB YOU REND, TWO WILL TAKE ITS PLACE!

GUESS IT JUST MEANS...

...I'LL HAVETA START RIPPIN' 'EM OFF FOUR AT A TIME, eh?

WELL DEALT, BUTCHER...

...BUT I CAN DRAW TECHNO-ORGANIC MATTER BACK FROM THOSE WHOM I HAVE ASSIMILATED...

...AND THEN WE CAN SEE WHO SHALL EXHAUST THEM-SELVES FIRST.

SKREEE

EEEEEE

THIS X-MAN I KNOW, GANG--

EEEEEE

SHAKK

--AND BANSHEE IS DEFINITELY ONE MAN HERE TO RESCUE US!

THAT I AM, LASS.

AN' I BROUGHT ALONG SOME **HELP** AS WELL. MEET EVERETT THOMAS. HE'S LIKE ALL O' YE.

BUT BETTER.

I'M SURPRISED TO FIND **YOU** HERE, **CREED.**

GOT A **PROBLEM** WITH IT, IRISH?

NOT AT ALL, BOYO.

GOOD. WEREN'T FER **ME,** THESE SNOT-NOSED PUNKS WOULD BE **DEAD!**

IN LIGHT O' THE FACT THEY'RE ALL HERE HALE AN' HEARTY--

--I'D SAY THAT NOT ONLY DO I AGREE WITH YE, BUT WE'RE IN YE'RE *DEBT* AS WELL.

I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT, TO BE SURE, BUT THE KIDS *ARE* SAFE.

TELL ME, CREED-- HOW'D YE FIND US?

I GOT MY WAYS, IRISH.

HAD 'EM FOR A LONG TIME 'FORE I BECAME XAVIER'S "PATIENT," TOO.

SECOND QUESTION, THEN: *WHY* DID YE COME HERE?

I GOT MY REASONS FOR THAT, TOO, CASSIDY... SEE ...*YOUNG* MEAT...

...TASTES BETTER.

ES UN ANIMAL, ESTE HOMBRE--

--UH, HE'S NOT SERIOUS... *IS* HE--?

O'-- O'COURSE NOT... I THINK.

MR. CASSIDY, SIR-- AH'M PAIGE GUTHRIE-- SAM'S SISTER. I KNOW YOUR DAUGHTER, THERESA.

ALL OF US WERE KIDNAPPED BY THE PHALANX, AND--

I *THINK* THEY'VE PRETTY MUCH FIGURED *THAT* PART OUT, MIJITA.

"I'LL TAKE STUPID THINGS TO SAY FOR FIFTY DOLLARS, ALEX!"

I KNOW WHO YE ARE, LASS.

BUT WHAT'S *HAPPENED* TO YOU?

PAIGE WAS *INFECTED* BY THAT HARVEST GUY.* THE TRANSMODE VIRUS THING'S BEEN *SPREAD-ING* OVER HER EVER SINCE!

*SEE UNCANNY X-MEN #317--BOB

SNIFF

WHY IS HE--*SMELLING* ME--?

YA GOT TWO SCENTS, GIRLIE.

SHEKKTH

SHAKKA-KIK!

AN' I GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHY!

CREED--?! WHAT'RE YE DOING, MAN?!

IF YE'VE HURT THE GIRL, I'LL--

YOU'LL WHAT, CASSIDY--?

ALL I DID T' THE FRAIL--

--IS SAVE HER LIFE!

THEY WATCH IN STUNNED SILENCE--

glitch!

--AS PAIGE GUTHRIE TEARS OUT OF HER OWN SKIN!

--THE YOUNG GIRL'S MUTANT POWERS STAND REVEALED!

SO, WHAT'RE Y'ALL LOOKIN' AT?

SHE FEVERISHLY REMOVES THE EPIDERMAL LAYER INFECTED BY THE TECHNO-ORGANIC MESH--

shrethkk!

--LIKE CORN, BEING SHUCKED OF ITS HUSK, UNTIL--

rrrrriiiPPPP!

IT'S KINDA --KIND OF-- WEIRD, I KNOW, BUT IT'S WHAT I DO, OKAY--?!

DON'T STARE TOO HARD. I'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL IN A FEW HOURS!

CREED, THAT WAS A BIG RISK YE TOOK!

RISK?

FOR HER, MAYBE, IRISH, NOT ME.

NO SKIN OFF MY NECK!

MR. CASSIDY, I THINK WE'RE FORGETTING ONE THING HERE.

IF YOUR SONIC SCREAM DESTROYED HARVEST -- SHOULDN'T IT HAVE OBLITERATED THIS GIRL'S TECHNO-ORGANIC MESH AS WELL?

OF COURSE IT SHOULD HAVE, CHILD!

THAT IS -- ASSUMING BANSHEE'S WAIL HAD ACCOMPLISHED ITS INTENDED TASK--

--WHICH IT MOST CERTAINLY ***DID NOT!***

FALL BACK!

SCATTER-- DON'T GIVE HIM ANY STATIONARY TARGETS!

YOUR ATTEMPTS AT SURVIVAL ARE FUTILE, MUTANT!

FAHWOOOM!

I AM WHOLE AGAIN, HAVING TAKEN BACK ALL TECHNO-MATTER I USED TO CREATE MY PHALANX ASSEMBLAGE.

AND WHILE I MAY REMAIN ISOLATED FROM THE COLLECTIVE WILL OF THE PHALANX--

--MY FUNDAMENTAL REASON FOR EXISTENCE HAS NOT CHANGED!

IF MUTANTS CANNOT BE ASSIMILATED --THEY MUST BE ELIMINATED!

MOVE AWAY FROM THERE!

OH, NO, NO, NO. THESE PEOPLE--THEY'RE ALL DEAD!

HE--HE KILLED THEM ALL--SO HE COULD BE STRONGER--

--AND KILL US? WHAT KIND OF A PERSON WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

IT IS NOT A *PERSON* WE'RE FIGHTING, CLARICE.

HAYEEE

IT'S *NOT*, INDEED! NOW-- *MOVE!!*

CONTINUE YOUR ATTACK, JUBILEE! YOU HAVE TO BUY US TIME!

I'M GOING TO TELEPATHI-CALLY CONTACT BANSHEE!

DO YER STUFF, FROSTIE.

AN' I'LL DO *MINE!*

BUT HE'S STILL ABLE T' COUNTER OUR MUTANT POWERS--SO WHAT'S OUR PLAN, MS. FROST?

I SHOULD THINK THAT OBVIOUS. FIRST THING WE DO IS CLEAR THE CHILDREN OFF THIS SHIP.

M WAS RIGHT. HARVEST IS COM-PLETELY PHALANX-- BODY AND SOUL.

A PSI-PROBE SHOWS NOT EVEN A SEMBLANCE OF HUMAN THOUGHT PATTERNS!

MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY, EMMA. I'LL PROVIDE THE DISTRACTION.

CREED, WE NEED A FRONTAL ASSAULT, BOYO!

GO TO TOWN!

IRISH, Y'KNOW, IF THIS KEEPS UP, I MIGHT ALMOST GET T' THE POINT WHERE I WON'T HATE YER GUTS ANYMORE...

SKREEEARGHH!

FSHAKT!

OH, JOY.

SKREEEEEEEEEE

THEY-- THEY'LL BOTH BE KILLED--!

THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE DOING, CLARICE!

YEAH? WELL, I'M NOT LEAVING BANSHEE BEHIND, FROSTIE!

YOU WILL FALL, MUTANTS! YOUR BLOOD SHALL BE WIPED CLEAN FROM EVER SOILING THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET AGAIN!

FIRST YOU-- THEN YOUR PRECIOUS NEXT GENERATION!

MA'AM-- HARVEST--CAN'T BE STOPPED, CAN IT?

IT WILL. WE ARE SIMPLY DELAYING THE INEVITABLE.

I MEAN, EVEN IF WE DO GET AWAY TODAY, IT'LL KEEP COMING AFTER US, WON'T IT?

THEN... IT HAS TO BE STOPPED, RIGHT?

I MEAN, RIGHT NOW, DOESN'T IT?

"I MEAN -- JUST BECAUSE WE'RE MUTANTS, IT WANTS TO KILL US--

"--AND AFTER IT'S DONE THAT--"

--IT'LL JUST FIND SOME *OTHER* MUTANTS TO KILL.

AND THEN, WHEN *ALL* MUTANTS ARE DEAD -- REGULAR *HUMANS* WILL BE NEXT, RIGHT?

WELL, YES... BUT DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT SOUND SO *DEPRESSING*?

SABRETOOTH IS STILL ALIVE, PEOPLE -- BUT HE IS NOT CONSCIOUS.

LET'S BE SMART HERE, CLARICE! WE CAN'T STOP HARVEST RIGHT NOW -- WE DON'T HAVE THE *FIREPOWER*!

NO, PAIGE, THAT'S WHERE I THINK YOU'RE *WRONG*.

"BECAUSE I THINK -- MAYBE -- I *DO* HAVE THE STRENGTH AND THE POWER. I JUST NEVER HAD THE GUTS.

"BUT UNTIL NOW, I'D NEVER SEEN THE KIND OF BLIND *HATRED* HARVEST REPRESENTS! I'D NEVER SEEN PEOPLE WITH THE KIND OF COURAGE THAT MEANT SACRIFICING *EVERY-THING* SO THAT OTHERS COULD LIVE!"

CLARICE -- *STOP!!*

YOU CAN'T BEAT HIM!

YOU KNOW I CAN, PAIGE.

GOODBYE... MY FRIENDS...

I HOPE WHAT I'M GOING TO DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE...

...SOMEWHERE DOWN THE ROAD...

BLINK!

LOOK OUT! SHE'S TELEPORTED A SLICE OF THE DECK AND SHIP'S HULL OUT FROM UNDER US!

SHE WAS SAVIN' OUR LIVES--

"--KNOWIN' THERE WOULD BE NOTHIN' ANY OF US COULD DO TO STOP HER IF WE WERE ALL IN THE WATER!"

GIRL, ARE YE DAFT?!

GET AWAY FROM HERE!!

I'M SORRY, MR. BANSHEE, SIR, BUT I CAN *STOP* THIS MONSTER--

--HERE AND NOW--AND FOREVER.

BLINK!

CAN YOU NOW, MUTANT FILTH--?

eh?

WHAT IS

HAPPENING

TO ME--?

WHY AM I

INCAPABLE OF ANALYZING

PREDICTABLE PATTERNS

TO THESE SPATIAL-SHEARING

MUTAGENIC ENERGIES--?

CLARICE, COME HERE-- QUICKLY, NOW! BEFORE YE'RE TRAPPED--

--BY YER OWN POWERS!

BLINK KKK!

CLARICE!!

SYSTEMS BREAKDOWN

IMMINENT

FILTHY-- MISBEGOTTEN--

--MUTANT--

--SCUM...

REACH FOR MY HAND! I WON'T LET YE GO, CHILD! I WON'T!

I--I

CAN'T

FEEL

ANYTHING

OH, GOD-- HANG ON-- PLEASE...

LORD-- DON'T DO THIS T'HER!

I CAN'T--

--FIND--

--YUIR--

--FINGERS--

NNOOOOOOO!!

SEAN CASSIDY FALLS, HIS SONIC SCREAM MORE WRENCHING THAN ANY HE HAS EVER LET SLIP FROM HIS LIPS.

IT ISN'T THE BANSHEE WAIL OF HIS MUTANT POWERS THAT ECHOES OVER THE ROAR OF SUCKING AIR AND SLICED METAL...

...BUT THE SOUNDS OF A MAN...

...WHOSE HEART HAS JUST BEEN BROKEN.

THEIR POOR, TORTURED SOULS! I FELT THE PSYCHIC CRIES FROM BOTH OF THEM--

--CLARICE... IS GONE.

WE'VE GOT TO REACH CASSIDY QUICKLY --BEFORE HE DROWNS!

"WE'VE LOST BLINK--

"--AND LOSING ONE PAYMENT ENOUGH!"

SKREEEEE

EEEE

EEEE

I GOT YOU, MR. CASSIDY!

HARVEST IS GONE-- RIPPED OUT OF EXISTENCE! WE DID IT!

SHE DID IT...

THEY TURN TO EACH OTHER FOR WARMTH AND COMFORT.

THEY TALK, AS SURVIVORS DO, IN WHISPERED HUSHES OF BREATHLESS DISBELIEF.

THE WORLD IS NO LONGER A SIMPLE PLACE FOR THESE FIVE, BUT THEY KNOW NOW THEY EACH HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE IT A SAFE ONE.

THE LESSON COST THEM THE LIFE OF A GIRL WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN THEIR FRIEND...

...AND A LITTLE PIECE OF THEIR INNOCENT HEARTS.

WILL THAT PRICE BE TOO STEEP FOR TOMORROW'S CHILDREN OF THE ATOM?

THANKS TO ONE OF THEM, THEY ONLY HAVE THE REST OF THEIR LIVES TO FIND OUT...

COMING NEXT MONTH: GENERATION X... BY SCOTT LOBDELL AND CHRIS BACHALO!

NEXT: THE RETURN OF THE X-MEN AND A CHANCE TO CATCH OUR BREATHS! WHEW!

THE LEGACY OF MUTANT-KIND'S LAST HOPE

BANSHEE TIMELINE

1 Sean Cassidy rescues X-Woman Moira Kinross from Irish terrorists. Cassidy & Kinross fall in love.

2 Sean becomes an agent of INTERPOL. While Sean's away on a mission, Maeve is killed in a terrorist attack. But not before she gives birth to Sean's daughter, Theresa Cassidy. Theresa's birth is kept secret from Sean.

3 Sean discovers his wife is dead. He leaves INTERPOL and Europe and joins the NYPD. Meanwhile, Black Tom Cassidy raises Theresa Cassidy as if she were his own daughter.

4 Sean, still heartbroken over the death of his wife, becomes a petty thief and falls under the control of the Hand. He is forced to confront the X-Men with the code-name of the Banshee.

5 He is forced to confront the X-Men with the code-name of the Banshee.

6 Banshee's sonic scream is healed by a Morlock healer. He rejoins the X-Men for a time but ultimately feels it's not the place for him. Theresa joins X-Force, a younger team of mutants led by Cable.

7 Mansion and the X-Men visit the Cassidy ancestral castle in Ireland where they are pitted against the villainy of Banshee's own brother, Black Tom Cassidy, and the unstoppable Juggernaut.

8 The X-Men rescue Banshee from the mutant island Krakoa.

9 On their way home, the X-Men come to Japan, where they are forced to stop Moses Magnum. Banshee's power is all that stands between Magnum and the destruction of Japan. Banshee loses his power and leaves the team, taking up residence on Muir Island.

10 There, his feelings for Meiko Mactaggert grow to love. She's attacked by her own son, the mutant Proteus. The X-Men come to save her.

11 Theresa Cassidy turns to crime under the loving tutelage of Black Tom Cassidy. Their crime spree draws the attention of Sabre-Woman, the X-Men, and Theresa's true father.

12 Banshee's sonic scream is healed by a Morlock healer. He rejoins the X-Men for a time but ultimately feels it's not the place for him. Theresa joins X-Force, a younger team of mutants led by Cable.

13 Banshee returns to Xavier's Mansion only to find it overrun by the Phalanx. He rescues Sabretooth, the White Queen and Jubilee, only to find a whole new generation of mutants in need of training. He becomes their teacher.

14 Formation of Generation X.

15 The Sentinels rise to power, and Sunspot sacrifices the Mutant Underground's rebellion. Loses hand in battle.

16 The Sentinels rise to power, and Banshee is slain defending his students.

17 Banshee is killed by the traitor to the X-Men.

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X-MEN #37 FOLDOUT "X-MEN TIMELINE" POSTER

MARVEL COMICS
NOV • 318
X-MEN DELUXE

THE UNCANNY X-MEN®

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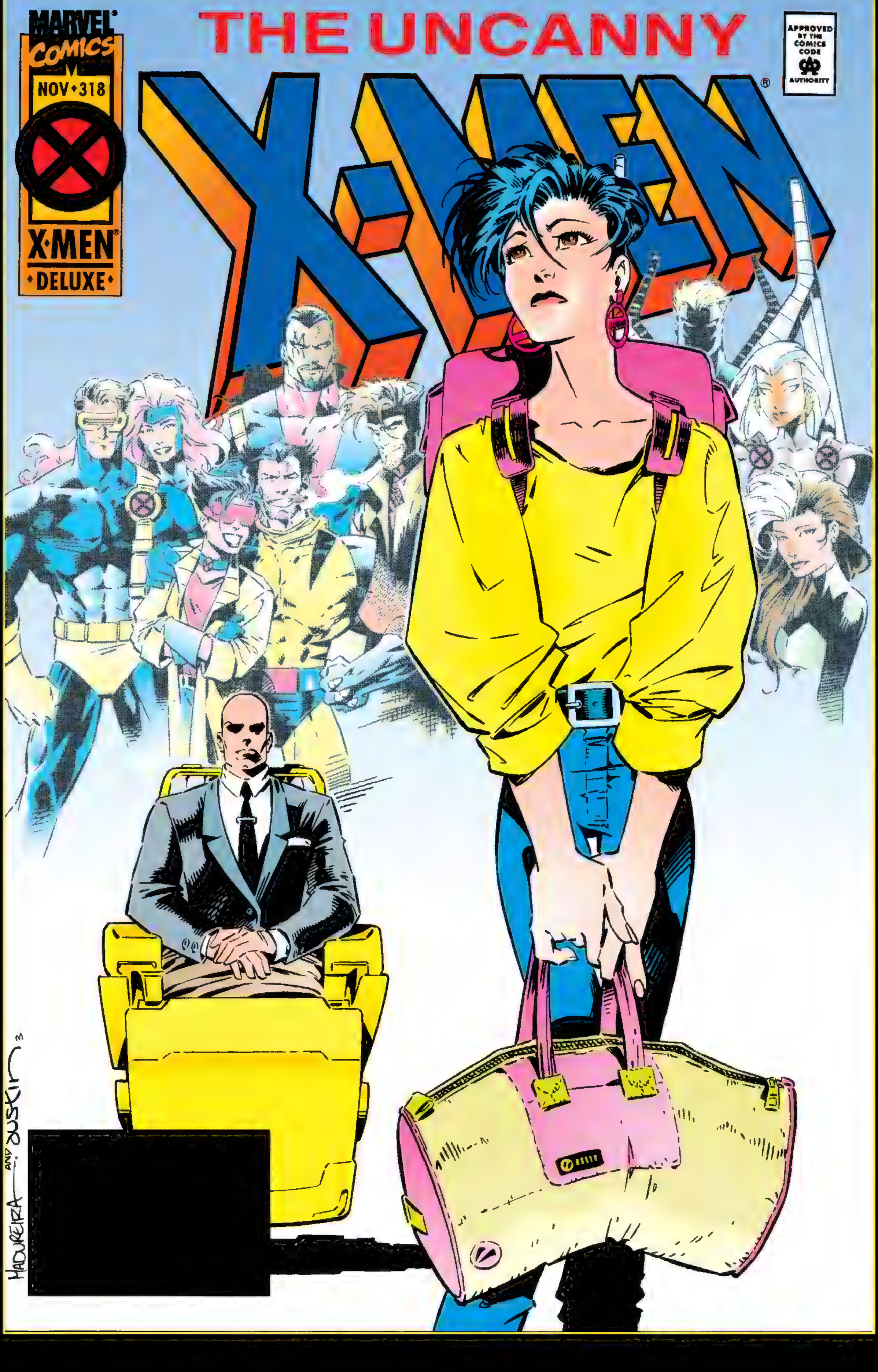


THE XAVIER ESTATE.

SALEM CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

NEW YORK.

FIVE YEARS, IKE.

SO YA SAID, MOKE.

XAVIER

SCHOOL FOR

GIFTED YOUNGSTE

FIVE YEARS I BEEN IN THIS TOWN --

--AND I AIN'T SEEN ONE OF 'EM YET !

WELL, HERE YA GO... THERE'S ONE OF 'EM... NOW.

HUNH.

KIND O'... WEIRD LOOKING, NO ?

LOOKS LIKE THE POOR KID HAS SOME KIND OF SKIN CONDITION.

GUESS THAT EXPLAINS WHY THEY DON'T HEAD INTO SALEM CENTER MUCH.

THE MANS WORDS STILL ECHO IN HIS EARS...

... ONE MILE LATER, AS ANGELO ESPINOSA STARTS HIS LONG JOURNEY TO NEW YORK CITY... AND KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIR-PORT.

A CAR AT LAST.

STAN LEE PRESENTS

MOVING DAY

A PRELUDE TO GENERATION X

SCOTT LOBDELL - WRITER
ROGER CRUZ - GUEST PENCILER
TIM TOWNSEND - GUEST INKER
GROVER ELIOPOULOS - LETTERS
STEVE BUCCELLATO - COLORS
BOB HARRAS - EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IF I DON'T GET A RIDE SOON...

...I'M GOING TO MISS MY--

CR-EEECH!

THANKS, AMIGO.

WELL "DE NADA" TO YOU, AMIGO-SAN.

DON'TCHA KNOW HITCHING IS DANGER-OUS?

IF YOU KNEW WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH, YOU...

...YOU...

...YOU?!

THAT'S ME... ME... ME IN THE FLESH--

--OR THE BLUE FUR IF YOU WANT TO GET TECH-NICAL--

--EVERYONE'S FAVORITE BEAST!

SO, CAN I GIVE YOU A RIDE SOME-WHERE, MR. ESPINOSA?

HMMM?

LET ME SEE... IN MY BRIEF ASSOCIATION WITH THE X-MEN, I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY THE PHALANX--

--SUBJECTED TO A STRING-LOAD OF TESTS TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF MY MUTANT ABILITY...

...AND BEEN OFFERED TO LEAVE EVERYONE I KNOW AND LOVE TO DEDICATE MYSELF--

--TO FIGHTING FOR A WORLD OF STRANGERS WHO JUST HAPPEN TO HATE MY GUTS BECAUSE OF WHAT I LOOK LIKE?

I'VE HAD ALL THE HELP FROM THE X-MEN THAT I NEED...

THANKS, ANYWAY.

SURE, WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...

...BUT JUST SO YOU ARE DULY *INFORMED*, ASIDE FROM THE HERE-TOFORE CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING *THUMBING* AS A MODE OF TRANS-PORT--

-- I SHOULD POINT OUT YOU ARE ON AN *ACCESS ROAD*.

"*ACCESS ROAD*"?

BY DEFINITION, "*A MEANS OF EGRESS FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE--*"

I *KNOW* WHAT AN ACCESS ROAD IS.

THEN YOU PROBABLY REALIZE THE *ODDS* OF YOU GETTING A *RIDE* TO CATCH YOUR *PLANE* ARE...

LET'S SEE.., 2,304.6 MINUTES DIVIDED BY THE DISTANCE OF...

=SIGH=

IN *THAT* CASE, DR. McCOY--

-- I COULD GET INTO A *RIDE* TO THE *AIRPORT*.

POR FAVOR, SEÑOR...?

CERTAINLY.

IF YOU HAVE ANY *WORDS* PLANNED TO *CONVINCE* ME TO STAY...?

...KEEP THEM TO *YOUR-SELF*.

MMO MMROPLEMM.

MMI MMWON'T MMAY MMA MMORDMM.

MMSSSHHMM.

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE LIVING ROOM AT XAVIER'S...

WHY DID I DO IT? WHY?

I LIED TO HIM. I STARED DIRECTLY INTO MY SON'S EYES... AND I LIED TO HIM.

KNOWING THAT I HAD TO LEAVE--THAT MY ESSENCE WAS BEING PULLED BACK THROUGH THE CENTURIES TO MY ORIGINAL BODY--

-- I PROMISED NATHAN HE'D NEVER BE ALONE.

THEN I LEFT HIM.

AGAIN.

SCOTT, WHAT CHOICE DID YOU HAVE? EVEN BEFORE YOU WERE PULLED INTO THE FUTURE BY THE CLAN ASKANI...

...THERE WAS NEVER A MOMENT WHEN YOUR HEART WASN'T WITH YOUR SON.

HIDE WHATEVER FEELINGS YOU CHOOSE FROM YOURSELF, BUT THOSE WHO KNOW YOU BEST HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN BETTER.

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER. FOUNDER OF THE AFOREMENTIONED X-MEN...

...AND POSSESSED OF THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT MIND ON THE PLANET.

SCOTT SUMMERS. ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, HE HAS ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A HONEYMOON SPENT TWO THOUSAND YEARS IN THE FUTURE...

...RAISING THE CHILD THEY'D ONCE THOUGHT LOST TO THEM FOR-EVER.

THE WOUNDS ARE STILL FRESH.

THAT'S KIND OF YOU TO SAY, PROFESSOR, BUT IT DOESN'T ANSWER OUR QUESTION: DO WE TELL CABLE THAT WE'RE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO RAISED HIM AS NATHAN DAYSPRING ?*

AN INTRIGUING DILEMMA, ONE, I AM AFRAID, I CAN'T SOLVE AT THIS MOMENT.

HAVING ABSORBED THE NEARLY TEN YEARS OF MEMORIES YOU AND JEAN EXPERIENCED IN THE FUTURE--

--IS A BIT TAXING, TO SAY THE LEAST.

*SEE CYCLOPS AND PHOENIX LIMITED SERIES- BOB

BELIEVE ME, CHARLES--

--WE KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL.

JEAN SUMMERS, KNOWN AS PHOENIX...

... HER PSIONIC POWERS RUN THE RANGE FROM TELEPATHY TO TELEKENISIS.

WE REQUESTED THIS MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PHALANX AFFAIR--

--BECAUSE WE WANTED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH AS CLEAR A PICTURE OF THE ORIGIN OF THE LEGACY VIRUS THAT WE COULD.

WE THINK WE WITNESSED THE CREATION OF THE PROTOTYPE-- BEFORE IT COULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN HUMAN AND MUTANT CELLULAR CORES.

INDEED YOUR DISCOVERY MAY PROVIDE US WITH A STARTING POINT...

... BUT IT MIGHT, I FEAR, AVAIL US NOTHING AT ALL.

ONLY TIME WILL TE AAYYELL!

BEFORE COMING TO THIS ERA TO RELEASE IT INTO OUR ATMOSPHERE, STRYFE MUST HAVE FOUND A WAY FOR HIS SO-CALLED "LEGACY VIRUS" TO TARGET MUTANT-SPECIFIC GENES.

CLINK!

PROFESSOR?!

BEFORE THE SCALDING TEA IMPACTS --

-- IT IS TELE-KINETICALLY SNATCHED IN MID-FALL.

CHARLES-- WHAT HAPPENED?!?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

PERFECTLY FIT... BUT IT IS CLEAR THE STRAIN OF THE PAST FEW DAYS IS CATCHING UP TO ME.

I ACCEPT *BANSHEE* HAD TO DESTROY MY *READY ROOM* IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE PHALANX *ACCESS* TO VITAL INFORMATION --

-- BUT THE *TRUTH* OF THE MATTER IS, THAT EXPLOSION REPRESENTED THE LOSS OF *YEARS* OF MY *LIFE'S WORK*... AND I FEEL QUITE... USELESS.

... WITH *ALL* DUE RESPECT, SIR...

... THAT'S *HARDLY* THE CASE.

EVERYTHING YOU'VE MANAGED TO ACCOMPLISH OVER THE DECADES, GOES A *LOT DEEPER* THAN ANY *DATA* STORED ON A DISK OR TWO.

NOW WHO IS BEING KIND, SCOTT?

I APPRECIATE THE *SENTIMENT* BEHIND WHAT YOU'VE SAID, BUT I SIMPLY CAN'T *IGNORE* THE EMOTIONAL IN-VESTMENT I PLACED IN THAT WORK.

IF YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME, SCOTT-- JEAN?

I NEED SOME TIME ALONE TO *ABSORB* THE SHEER AMOUNT OF *PSIONIC INFORMATION* I RECEIVED.

CALL US IF YOU *NEED* US, SIR.

MOMENTS LATER,

PERHAPS THEY ARE *RIGHT*, CHARLES.

PERHAPS THERE IS *REASON* TO HOPE WE MIGHT HAVE OUR FIRST *TRUE BREAKTHROUGH* IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE LEGACY VIRUS?

WHY THEN DO I SUSPECT WE WILL ALL SUFFER SO MUCH MORE BE-FORE THIS ORDEAL IS OVER?

AND WHY DO I FEAR IT WILL BE *CYCLOPS* AND *PHOENIX* WHO WILL PAY THE DEAREST PRICE?

WESTCHESTER GALLERIA...

JUBILATION LEE.

MONET ST. CROIX.

PAIGE GUTHRIE.

EVERETT THOMAS.

IS IT *ME*-- OR ARE WE TOTALLY *TOO HIP* FOR THIS ROOM?

ME-- I DON'T REMEMBER THE *LAST TIME* I WORE SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T BELONG TO ONE OF MY OTHER *BROTHERS* OR *SISTERS* FIRST.

IF WE'RE GOING TO BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF X-MEN...

... I THINK IT IS INCUMBENT UPON US TO LOOK THE PART.

SAVING THE WORLD THROUGH *SHOPPING*?

RAD.

KIND O' MAKES ME WONDER WHATEVER POSSESSED ME TO LEAVE THE LIFE OF A CALIFORNIA MALL RAT.

AHHH, TO BE A KID AGAIN.

=GASP=

THE *PRICE* OF THIS JACKET IS ENOUGH FOR MY *MOMM*-- MY MOTHER TO FEED OUR *FAMILY* FOR A *MONTH*!

YEAH, WELL-- WELCOME TO THE *REST* O' THE *WORLD*, *HAYSEED*.

NONSENSE, PAIGE -- IT'S PRACTICALLY LESS THAN NOTHING.

CAN I HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING ELSE, MISS?

OF COURSE, MISS.

MONET, WHILE THIS IS ALL EXTREMELY GENEROUS --

--HAS IT OCCURED TO YOU THAT SOMETIMES PEOPLE DON'T LIKE BEING HANDED THINGS FOR NO REASON?

PERHAPS SOME PEOPLE WHO AREN'T BORN RICH LIKE YOU MIGHT WANT TO ACTUALLY WORK FOR WHAT THEY HAVE?

NO, EVERETT.

THAT HAS NEVER EVEN PASSED MY MIND.

I'M BEING SELFLESS...

NOW, DO YOU WANT TO FIND SOMETHING THAT WILL FIT AFTER YOUR MUTANT ABILITY EVENTUALLY SHEDS SABRETOOTH'S ADDED MASS?

!?!

YOU DO KNOW MORE ABOUT EVERYTHING THAN YOU LET ON!

WE'LL TAKE IT ALL, AND WEAR IT OUT.

I TRUST YOU TAKE THE PLATINUM CARD?

...YOU COULD HAVE THE DECENCY TO BE GRACIOUS.

MUCH MORE.

AHHH, LOOK AT 'EM ALL...

...GETTING ALONG AS IF THEY'VE BEEN KITH AND KIN ALL THEIR LIVES.

AGREEING TO BE HEADMASTER AT XAVIER'S NEW SCHOOL WAS PROBABLY THE BEST DECISION I EVER MADE.

PROBABLY.

INDEED.

BASED ON MY *EXPERIENCE* DEALING WITH FIELD OPERATIVES IN THE X.S.E. --

-- I'D SAY YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR *HANDS* FULL.

TO *OVERFLOWING.*

YOU ARE *TEASING,* BISHOP?

NEVER.

THEY ARE YOUNG, INEXPERIENCED, *OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC,* AND FOR THE MOST PART, *UNTRAINED* IN THEIR POWERS.

SURE'N, *COLLECTIVELY*-- BUT AS INDIVIDUALS, THEY SEEM LIKE A *FINE* BROOD OF CHILDREN.

AND *INDIVIDUALLY,* THERE IS JUBILEE.

JUST BECAUSE IT WAS *HER* IDEA TO TRAIN DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S LIKELY TO LISTEN TO *YOU* ANY BETTER THAN SHE HAS THE PROFESSOR.

PAIGE WANTS TO FOLLOW IN HER BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS SO BADLY WE CAN *ALL* TASTE IT.

NOW, *THERE'S* A *SCARY IMAGE* I'LL BE CARRYING AROUND WITH ME THE *REST* OF THE DAY.

I MIGHT AS WELL ACCEPT THE *TRUTH,* NOW...

... THEY'RE GOING TO BURY ME *ALIVE, AREN'T* THEY?

YOU WILL DO *FINE,* OLD FRIEND.

JUST FINE.

M IS PERFECT-- BEAUTIFUL, BRILLIANT, RICH, *SEEMINGLY* IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF HER POWERS-- IT'S ALMOST... *UNNERVING.*

AND EVERETT...?

HE REMINDS ME OF *ME* IN MY YOUTH.

♫ I CAN'T GET N-N-NO, NO-- ♫

DUNH DUNH DHUH DHOO!

♫-- SAT-IS-FACT-SHUN! ♫

DUNH DUNH DHUH DHOO!

♫ NO, I CAN'T GET NO--♫

UGHN!

♫SATISFAC--

CLICK!

DUDE?

YOU DON'T LIKE THE STONES?

IS THIS ALL LIFE IS TO YOU, McCOY-- ONE BIG SERIES OF *LAUGHS* AND *SONGS* AND *DANCES*?!

MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW THIS, *TUCKED* AWAY IN YOUR *MAKE BELIEVE* X-WORLD...

...BUT THERE IS AN ENTIRE PLANET OUT THERE OF PEOPLE WHO ARE *HURTING*... *SUFFERING*...*STARVING!*

HMMM. I SEE.

YOU'RE AFRAID MY *CONSTANT* SINGING MIGHT DISTRACT THEM FROM THEIR OTHERWISE *MORIBUND MUSINGS*?

INTERESTING.

THAT IS NOT--

THWAPP

ANGELO!!

PARA AQUI, BEAST--

PARA AQUI--!

THE ROUGH TRANSLATION IS "STOP THE CAR!"

SOMETHING HANK McCOY--

--HAD INTENDED TO DO--

SCREECH!!

--ANY WAY...

¡¿QUÉ LE PASA, ANGELO?!

¡¿DONDÉ LE DUELE?!

WHAT'S WRONG, SON? WHAT HAPPENED?!

LIFE... HAPPENED.

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, MY SKIN STARTED TURNING GREY--SAG-GING...

...GROWING!

FOR THE MOST PART, I CAN CONTROL IT... WHEN I CONCENTRATE.

LESS SO WHEN I'M FORCED TO SUFFER IDIOTS.

NOW HERE-- YOU WANT TO LAUGH...?

... SING AND DANCE?

CLICK!

HAVE A FIESTA.

♫ BUT I TRY--

♫ --AND I TRY--

♫ --AND I TRY... BUT--♫

♫ -- I CAN'T GET N-NO-NO SATISFACTION... ♫

THE FRONT LAWN OF THE XAVIER ESTATE...

CAREFUL WITH THAT SIGN YOU-- YOU PLEBIANS!

IT COSTS ABOVE TWELVE TIMES WHAT I'M PAYING YOU TO SURPRISE A "FRIEND" OF MINE.

WE'RE BEING AS CAREFUL AS WE CAN, LADY.

I'M ABOUT THREE SECONDS AWAY FROM TAKING OVER THEIR MINDS AND USING THEIR BODIES TO DO THIS JOB MYSELF!

BUT CONSIDERING XAVIER ISN'T LIKELY TO APPRECIATE THAT PARTICULAR TACT--

XAVIER
...UTE FOR ...EARNING

IT AIN'T LIKE IT DON'T WEIGH A TON.

-- I'LL HAVE TO BE... P-P... PATIENT.

I DESPISE BEING PATIENT.

AND DON'T THINK FOR A MOMENT YOU'RE GETTING OVERTIME FOR--

HMMM? WHERE DO I RECOGNIZE THOSE THOUGHTS?

I'LL ONLY BE A MOMENT-- I'LL EXPECT YOU TO BE DONE WHEN I GET BACK.

RIGHT AWAY, MISS.

YES, MA'AM.

DONE AN' GONE, LET'S HOPE!

SO DON'T JUST STAND THERE IN THE SHADOWS...

WHAT IS IT, DRAKE?

FROST... I WAS HOPING--

I CAN'T *HEAR* YOU.

ACHEM... I...

I WAS HOPING THAT WE COULD *TALK*... ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

EXACTLY WHICH "*WHAT*" WOULD THAT BE?

YOU WANT ME TO SAY IT *OUT LOUD*?

FINE.

WHEN YOU TOOK OVER *MY BODY*, WHEN YOU... *VIOLATED*... MY MIND--

--YOU *DID* THINGS, WITH MY *ICE POWERS*, THAT I NEVER...

...THINGS I *HAVEN'T* FIGURED OUT YET ON MY OWN. I JUST FELT THAT AFTER *EVERYTHING* THAT HAPPENED YOU *OWED ME*--

I OWE YOU *NOTHING*, X-MAN

IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU'RE A PATHETIC LITTLE *LOSER* WHO NEVER *BOTHERED* TO *PUSH* HIMSELF.

REMEMBER, I WAS *INSIDE* YOUR HEAD...

...WE *BOTH* KNOW THE REASON YOU'VE BEEN AFRAID TO DE-VELOP YOUR POWERS OVER THE YEARS, DON'T--

STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH ME, *FROST!!*

I WANT TO KNOW *EXACTLY* *HOW* YOU DID *WHAT* YOU DID!

OR *WHAT*?!

YOU'RE GOING TO *HURT* ME?

DON'T...

...*PUSH* ME.

YOU'RE A *FOOL*, DRAKE.

I LIKE THAT IN A MAN.

RARHN!

WHAT ARE...

...YOU...

...DOING?

I'M GIVING YOU WHAT YOU ASKED FOR!

YOU WANT POWER-- YOU WANT TO BE DANGEROUS... TO BE IN CONTROL!

YOU WANT THE RESPECT YOU'LL ONLY GET WHEN YOU STOP BEING THE INEFFECTUAL CLOWN THAT YOU ARE.

SAY IT, DRAKE!

SAY IT'S WHAT YOU WANT...

YES...

I WANT ALL THOSE THINGS...

FINE.

THEN LEARN HOW TO DO THEM.

ON YOUR OWN.

I SHOWED YOU A GLIMPSE OF YOUR FULL POTENTIAL...

... IT'S UP TO YOU TO DO SOMETHING WITH THAT INFORMATION.

WHETHER THAT DRIVES YOU FORWARD--

-- OR DRIVES YOU CRAZY--

-- MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.

HERE YOU GO, KID.

TAKE THE CAR AND DRIVE. DRIVE WHEREVER YOU WANT, ANGELO.

FIND A PLACE WHERE MUSIC AND LAUGHTER AND SINGING DOESN'T BELONG...

... WHERE SUNSHINE AND LIGHT AND HOPE STANDS NO CHANCE.

SETTLE DOWN IN A FOX HOLE, PULL A BLANKET OVER YOUR HEAD AND IGNORE THE REST OF THE WORLD AROUND YOU.

AND WHEN YOU GET THERE, KID, SEND ME A POSTCARD.

HASTA LA VISTA, AMIGO.

VRMMMM

NOT TOO BOGUS-- 'EY, JUBILEE?

I MEAN, LIKE, I FIRST STARTED *HANGIN'* WITH THE X-MEN WHEN THEY WERE IN *AUSTRALIA*--

-- RIGHT AFTER MY *PARENTS* WERE... *KILLED.*

I MEAN, I *WASN'T SCOPING* OUT A NEW *HOME.*

I *WASN'T.*

BUT... GUESS I *FOUND* ONE, ANY WAY.

YOU'RE *LEAVING?*

YEAH--

--ARCHANGEL, I'M *MOTORING.*

WHAT'S IT TO YA?

I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU'RE DOING, JUBILEE.

AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH SINCE YOU CAME HERE--

--IT'S GOING TO BE QUITE AN ADJUSTMENT GOING FROM FLEDGLING X-MAN TO A NEW MUTANT IN TRAINING.

YEAH, WELL--

-- I'M KINDA LOOKING FORWARD TO A CHANGE O' PACE, WORTHINGTON.

YA' KNOW, A DAY WHERE I CAN ENJOY BREAKFAST BEFORE I GOTTA FIGHT FOR MY LIFE?

GOOD LUCK, JUBILEE.

IF YOU EVER NEED--

SAVE IT.

... PARDON ME?

I SAID, "SAVE IT!"

I AIN'T THE ONE WHO NEEDS LUCK, WARREN.

I'M JUST A KID--IF I WANT TO PRETEND LIKE NOTHIN' NEVER BOTHERS ME, THAT'S MY RIGHT AS AN IMMATURE BRAT!

BUT YOU-- WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE, TWEETY?!

WHA--?!

JUBILEE, WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM?!

MY POINT, EXACTLY.

I CAN COUNT THE NUMBER O' TIMES ON THREE FINGERS THAT YOU'VE SAID MORE THAN FIVE WORDS IN ALL THE TIME I BEEN CRIBBIN' HERE!

I'M ON MY WAY OUT THE DOOR AND YA DECIDE TO START GETTIN' ALL CONCERNED ON ME?

LATER FOR THAT, DUDE.

YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR, JUBILEE-- I'VE ALWAYS CARED ABOUT YOU. ADMITTEDLY, I'VE NEVER BEEN THE MOST EXPRESSIVE PERSON WHEN IT COMES TO EMOTING, BUT--

IT'S CALLED BEIN' HUMAN, WARREN!

YA MIGHT WANT TO TRY IT ONCE IN A WHILE.

I'M... KINDA... SORRY.

SORT O'

IT'S JUST, LIKE, SOMETIMES I'M UP ALL NIGHT WONDERIN' ABOUT MY PARENTS... WHY I NEVER GOT T'BE AS CLOSE TO THEM AS I AM TO LOGAN AND EVERYONE ELSE.

EVERY MORNING I COME UP WITH THE SAME ANSWER.

IT'S 'CAUSE I NEVER TOLD 'EM HOW I FELT. NEVER REALLY SHOWED IT.

NEVER SAID IT OUT LOUD.

I JUST DON'T WANT THE SAME THING T'HAPPEN TO YOU.

YA KNOW, LETTIN' SOMEBODY YA' LOVE KNOW YA' LOVE 'EM ISN'T A BAD THING, DUDE.

NO, JUBILEE...

...IT'S NOT A BAD THING AT ALL.

THE BOAT HOUSE...

...AT THE EDGE OF THE ESTATE.

KNOCK KNOCK

THAT IS, THE FORMER BOAT HOUSE--

--CURRENTLY THE HOME OF SCOTT AND JEAN SUMMERS.

IS IT ME, MON AMI, OR AM I DE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS IT'S FUNNY--

-- DAT YOU'D ASK A THIEF LIKE ME T'HELP YOU MOVE YOUR PRIZED POSSESSIONS?

EX-THIEF, GAMBIT... NO?

ONCE IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD, SCOTT... IT'S LIKE BEIN' AN ALCOHOLIC WHO WANTS T' DRINK, BUT DON'T.

DE NEED IS ALWAYS DERE.

DE FACT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT IS JUST ONE REASON YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN, CYCLOPS.

I KNOW IT, REMY. IT WAS INCREDIBLY KIND OF THE PROFESSOR TO GIVE JEAN AND ME SOME PERSONAL SPACE HERE ON THE GROUNDS.

TRUE. BUT DAT AIN'T WHAT I NECESS'LY MEANT.

I'M TALKIN' ABOUT YOUR WHOLE LIFE, SCOTT... ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

I'M TALKIN' ABOUT A FUTURE WITH A WIFE DAT LOVES YOU--

--AND A PAST FILLED WIT' THINGS YOU'RE NOT ASHAMED OF.

EXCEPT PERHAPS MY INABILITY TO HOOK UP THIS BLASTED VCR...?

BUT YOU'RE BEING *SERIOUS*, AREN'T YOU?

MOSTLY.

YOU WERE *MARRIED* ONCE, REMY. YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO "HAVE IT ALL" WITH *BELLA-DONNA*, DIDN'T YOU?

NO. I *HAD* TO MARRY MY *BEST FRIEND*, JUST T'KEEP OUR FAMILIES FROM *KILLIN'* EACH OTHER.

WHAT *YOU* HAVE WIT' JEAN IS *LOVE*...

...AND *DAT* MAKES ALL THE *DIFFERENCE* IN DE WORLD.

AND WHAT *YOU* HAVE WITH *ROGUE*...

...WHAT IS THAT?

I GUESS DAT DEPENDS ON *WHICH* DAY OF THE *WEEK* IT IS.

MEANING "NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, SCOTT."

SPEAKING O' WHICH, WHOSE "THREE *STOOGES* COLLECTED *WORKS*" VIDEO?

UMMM, THAT'D BE MINE.

IT WAS... ER, A GIFT...

...A WEDDING GIFT.

LIKE I *SAID*, YOU'RE A *LUCKY MAN*, SCOTT SUMMERS.

MOST OF THE OTHERS LEFT WITH EMMA IN HER LIMO TWENTY MINUTES AGO.

SO... I *GUESS* THIS IS IT THEN, CHARLES?

YES, I GUESS SO. TODAY MAKES IT *OFFICIAL*. XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS IS BEING *TRANSPLANTED* TO THE *FORMER* MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY--

--WHILE MY *FAMILY ESTATE* BECOMES THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING.

BSX

SEAN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW...

...THERE IS NOT A LIVING SOUL I TRUST *MORE* THAN YOU TO SHOULDER THE *RESPONSIBILITY* OF TRAINING THIS NEW GENERATION OF MUTANTS.

AN' I *WON'T* BE LETTIN' YE DOWN.

BUT, CHARLES...?

I *HAVE* TO *TELL* YE, I'M A WEE BIT *UNSURE* ABOUT YOUR DECISION TO INVOLVE THE *WHITE QUEEN*.

THE *FORMER* WHITE QUEEN.

REST ASSURED, EMMA FROST HAS A MUCH *BIGGER* HEART--

--A GREATER CAPACITY FOR *COMPASSION*-- THAN EVEN *SHE* SUSPECTS.

IF ANYONE CAN BRING THAT TO THE SURFACE, IF ANYONE CAN HELP HER DEAL WITH HER GUILT OVER THE *SLAUGHTER* OF THE *HELLIONS*--

--YOU'RE THE MAN TO DO IT, SEAN CASSIDY.

I'M *SURE'N* YE'RE RIGHT.

IF WE DON'T *KILL* EACH OTHER FIRST.

YOU'LL BE *FINE*.

TRUST ME.

WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP SAYING THAT?

ACH-CHEM...?

JUBILEE ?

SHHHH.

DON'T--

--SAY NOTHIN'... OR I'LL START CRYIN'!

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR XAVIER.

FOR KNOWIN' WHEN TO HOLD ON...

...AND WHEN T'LET GO.

TODAY, HE HAS TURNED OVER THE MANTLE OF HEADMASTER TO ANOTHER...

... AT A TIME IN HIS LIFE WHEN HE REALIZES HE HAS MORE TO LEARN FROM HIS "STUDENTS"--

-- THEIR LIVES... THEIR HOPES... THEIR DREAMS--

-- THAN HE MAY EVER BE ABLE TO TEACH THEM.

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

ANGELO ?

SIR.

IF YOU WILL HAVE ME AT YOUR SCHOOL...

... I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN BANSHEE'S PROGRAM AND BECOME A STUDENT.

HE AND I WOULD BE HONORED.

WELCOME.

IF YOU HURRY YOU CAN CATCH UP WITH THEM!

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER --

-- HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED THINGS HAPPEN FOR A REASON...

... EXACTLY WHEN THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.

XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING

The End.

WATCH FOR THE STORY OF THE NEXT WAVE -- IN GENERATION X -- ON SALE IN THREE WEEKS!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL Comics

ALL NEW 1 NOV

GENERATION X

AN X-MEN EVENT

BACHALO □ BUCKY

DAWN.

NATURE'S WAY OF SAYING, "HERE YA GO --

"-- TAKE ANOTHER SHOT.

"TRY AGAIN.

"HERE'S A WHOLE NEW DAY IN WHICH TO SUCCEED...

"...TO GIVE REALITY TO THE DREAMS YOU HAD THE NIGHT BEFORE."

THIS IS PAIGE GUTHRIE, WHO HAS AS LITTLE TIME FOR SLEEP AS SHE DOES FOR DREAMS.

SHE IS A MUTANT.

NATURE'S WAY OF SAYING, "HERE YA GO --

"-- A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA.

"TRY HARDER.

"YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN GENETICALLY ALTERED ABILITIES WHICH SEPARATE YOU FROM THE REST OF THE HUMAN RACE.

"DEAL WITH IT."

STAN LEE proudly presents a NEW ERA for Xavier's school --

GENERATION X in THIRD GENESIS

created by SCOTT LOBDELL & CHRIS BACHALO

inked by MARK BUCKINGHAM

lettered by STARKINGS & COMICRAFT

colored by BUCCELLATO & ELECTRIC CRAYON

edited by BOB HARRAS

editor in chief TOM DEFALCO

AND DEALING WITH IT SHE IS.

DETERMINED TO BE THE **BEST** THE NEXT GENERATION OF **X-MEN** HAS TO OFFER --

-- SHE'S **PROBABLY** NOT **QUITE** AS CLOSE TO THAT GOAL --

-- AS SHE'D LIKE TO BELIEVE.

FIVE MILES...

...IN THIRTY-FIVE...

...MINUTES?

NOT BAD... GAL.

'COURSE, IF AH'M --

OF COURSE, IF *I AM* GOING TO ACTUALLY *LEAD* THIS TEAM...

...I *DO* HAVE TO SET AN *EXAMPLE.*

RESPECT IS THE KEY TO --

YOU ARE *ONE SICK PUPPY,* GUTHRIE!

XA ER'S

SCHOO D YOUNGSTERS

DO YOU HAVE, LIKE, *ANY IDEA* WHAT *TIME* IT IS?!

I'D GUESS ABOUT *SIX FORTY-FIVE.*

WRONGO! IT'S ALMOST ***TEN*** OF ***SEVEN!***

NOBODY, BUT **NOBODY** -- BUT *PSYCHOPATHS* AND *GARBAGE MEN* -- GET UP ***THIS*** EARLY... AND NONE O'THEM WOULD BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO **JOG,** T'BOOT!

THIS IS **JUBILATION LEE.**

NATURE'S WAY OF SAYING "WHOOPS."

SHORTLY AFTER BEING **ORPHANED,** **JUBILEE** MADE HER FAMILY AMONG HER FELLOW MUTANTS IN THE **X-MEN.**

ALTHOUGH SHE **VOLUNTEERED** TO COME TO THIS SCHOOL IN ORDER TO BEST DEVELOP HER **PYROKINETIC POWERS** --

-- SHE WAS ALSO HOPING SHE'D BE ABLE TO **SLEEP IN** A LITTLE **LATER** IN THE PROCESS.

CONSIDERING THE *SIZE* OF THIS *CAMPUS*, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU COULDN'T FIND MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN *KEEP TABS* ON ME.

QUITE THE HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE, THERE, *HAYSEED*.

I WOULDN'T CARE AT *ALL* --

-- IF YA WEREN'T BLASTING YER *CINDY CRAWFORD WORKOUT VIDEO* AT *FIVE A.M.* IN THE *MORNING!*

YOU PEOPLE DOWN SOUTH AREN'T REAL BIG ON *SLEEP*, *ARE* YA?

I CAN'T SPEAK FOR *ALL* OF US *"DOWN SOUTH,"* BUT ME..?

I'M NOT REAL BIG ON *WASTING TIME*.

NOW, IF YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME --

NO...

-- I HAVE TO GET READY FOR CLASS.

...YOU'RE *NOT* EXCUSED.

I'LL ONLY BE A SECOND.

AT *LEAST* LET ME *TURN AROUND!*

YOU'RE BEING *SILLY*.

AND *YOU'RE* BEING *GROSS!*

THERE'S NOTHING *GROSS* ABOUT MY MUTANT ABILITY TO *SHED* MY *OUTER SKIN* FOR A *NEW FORM* UNDERNEATH.

I THINK IT'S PRETTY *ORIGINAL*.

EEEUUYYUCH!

I HATE HATE *HATE* WHEN YOU DO THAT!

I KNOW.

I WAS CURIOUS TO SEE IF MY POWER COULD *WORK* THIS WAY --

-- SORT OF A *QUICK* VERSION OF A *HOT SHOWER* SHEDDING AWAY THE *SWEAT* AND *GRIME.*

ISN'T THAT THE WHOLE REASON WE'RE *AT* THIS SCHOOL --

-- TO LEARN HOW TO BE THE *BEST* MUTANTS WE CAN BE?

YA, WELL -- *SOME* OF US NEED MORE *TRAINING* THAN OTHERS.

WHEN *I* WAS WITH THE X-MEN...

PLEASE, *LEE* -- NOT ANOTHER "*WHEN I WAS WITH THE X-MEN*" PARABLE!

...*ALL* I WAS GONNA SAY... IS THAT WE WOULD NEVER -- *EVER* -- LEAVE OUR *SKINS* LYIN' AROUND.

YA COULD AT LEAST *PICK UP* AFTER YERSELF, HAYSEED.

THAT IS, LIKE, *TACKY CUBED!*

YOU CAN'T FAULT THE CHILD FOR POOR *UPBRINGING,* JUBILATION.

?

CERTAINLY AFTER A FEW WEEKS OF EXPOSURE TO *YOU* --

-- PAIGE WILL BE THE *PORTRAIT* OF *CLASS.*

M-- YER BEING SARCASTIC, RIGHT?

I'D LIKE TO THINK I WAS BEING IRONIC AT BEST --

-- SARDONIC AT THE LEAST.

BUT YES, YOU GET THE IDEA.

MONET ST. CROIX.

POSSESSED OF A MULTITUDE OF SUPER HUMAN ATTRIBUTES --

-- NOT THE SMALLEST OF WHICH ARE BEAUTY AND EGO.

Huh-LLOOO, M --ANYBODY HOME?

YA DON'T GO DROPPING OUT OF THE SKY LIKE THAT.

WHAT IF SOMEBODY SAW YA?!

THE REST OF YOU MAY WISH TO CONCEAL THE MUTANT ASPECTS OF YOURSELVES, BUT I HAVE NO SUCH COMPUNCTIONS.

YEAH, AND IF MY POWER WAS TO BE *MISS PERFECT PRISS '94*, I WOULDN'T TRY TO HIDE IT *EITHER.*

BUT *INSTEAD* YOU GIVE OFF *SPARKS* FROM YOUR *HANDS.*

YOU MUST BE QUITE *AMUSING* AT PARTIES.

XAVIER

I'LL GIVE YA *AMUSING*, YA--

GLAD TO SEE YOU COULD MAKE IT, MONET.

SEAN CASSIDY.

CALLED BANSHEE.

NOW, IF'N YE ARE ALL PREPARED FOR YOUR *SEVEN A.M.* TRAINING SESSION, LADIES?

HEADMASTER HERE AT XAVIER'S

THE MAN IN CHARGE.

THEORETICALLY, ANYWAY.

MISTER CASSIDY, I'M EXPECTING A FEW PERSONAL BELONG-INGS...

NOT A PROBLEM, LASS.

I'LL TAKE CARE O' IT *MESELF.*

Phew! YA WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE *CHIPPIN'* THE *CHINA.*

YOU ARE A *PRINCE*, MISTER CASSIDY.

NOT AT ALL. WHAT'S A FEW--

HEY BUDDYPAL!

WHERE YA WANTS WE SHOULD *PUT* THIS STUFF?

HONK HONK

D'OH!

CHEESE AND CRACKERS, M -- WHAJA' PACK YER *WHOLE LIFE* IN THERE?!

ELSEWHERE...

...ON THE MID-ATLANTIC "RED EYE" BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES...

...A VERY PRIVATE YOUNG MAN...

...FINDS HIMSELF PERFORMING FOR A CURIOUS AUDIENCE OF ONE.

EXIT

DINA, STOP STARING...IT'S IMPOLITE.

HE IS SOMETHING SHORT OF AMUSED.

WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WORD --

-- BECAUSE COMMUNICATION HAS BECOME A CHORE FOR JONOTHON STARSMORE SINCE HIS ACCIDENT --

-- HE DECIDES TO SATISFY THE GIRL'S CURIOSITY.

MOM...

THAT GUY HAS SOME KIND OF BIO-NUCLEAR PSIONIC BIOKINETIC FIELD INSIDE HIM.

THAT'S HIS BUSINESS, DINA. NOW TURN AROUND AND FINISH YOUR CALCULUS.

I'M COMING, CHARLES XAVIER --

-- JUST AS YOU REQUESTED. BUT WHAT, I WONDER, DO YOU EXPECT YOUR SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS WILL BE ABLE TO DO WITH A FREAK LIKE ME?

XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS

Dear Mr. Starsmore,

After a careful review of your case history as provided by the physician assigned to evaluate your condition, I feel comfortable in encouraging you to consider enrollment at our

SOMEPLACE ELSE...

YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, IT'D *EXPEDITE* THINGS IF YOU'D SIMPLY *GIVE UP* AND *CONCEDE* DEFEAT?

NO ANSWER.

WHY AM I *NOT* SURPRISED?

AFTER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, BETWEEN LEARNING I'M A *MUTANT*...

...AND SLUGGING IT OUT WITH SOMETHING -- EMPHASIS ON "*THING*" -- CALLED THE *PHALANX** --

*SEE RECENT ISSUES OF THE **X-MEN** -- BOB

-- I DOUBT *MISSUS THOMAS'S* LITTLE BOY *EVERETT* IS EVER GOING TO BE SUR-PRISED --

-- BY *ANYTHING* EVER AGAIN.

THEN AGAIN...

...?

ANGELO'S BELT?

HOW'D IT GET IN THE STREAM?

HE LOOKS CONCERNED.

WHICH MEANS HE'S FAKING...

...OR HE'S AN IDIOT.

EITHER WAY...

CAN YOU HEAR ME, ANGELO?

ARE YOU --

-- ALL RIGHT?!

WHAM

MUY BUENO, MUCHACHO.

THANK YOU FOR ASKING.

WHEN THE REST OF THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK STARTED GROWING FACIAL HAIR AND FOUND THEIR VOICES CHANGING...

...ANGELO ESPINOSA DISCOVERED HE WAS GROWING ABOUT SIX FEET MORE SKIN THAN HE NEEDED.

HE'S ADJUSTING.

WHERE I COME FROM --

-- THAT IS WHAT WOULD COLLOQUIALLY BE KNOWN AS A "SUCKER PUNCH."

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I RETURN THE FAVOR?

NO, YOU IDIOT -- JUMP BACK!

I AMBUSHED YOU FROM THE DISTANCE --

...BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT YOUR SYNCH-AURA INTERACTING WITH MY SKIN!

LIGHTEN UP ANOTHER SHADE OF GREY, ANGELO -- UNLIKE YOU, I'VE GOT MY POWER DOWN TO A SCIENCE!

EVEN I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO CONTROL MY SKIN-POWER!

STOP SQUIRMING, AND WE'LL CALL IT A DRAW!

AWAY FROM ME!

HEY!

IT'S HOW I MANAGED TO RETAIN MY INCREASED BULK THE WHOLE TIME I WAS AROUND SABRE-TOOTH!*

*SEE GENERATION NEXT IN UNCANNY X-MEN AND X-MEN -BOB

WHAT IF I SHOULD RIP OR TEAR?!

GET

NOT TOO TERRIBLY FAR AWAY...

WHOA.

COOL DIGS YA GOT, BANSHEE.

I'M, LIKE, *WITHOUT SPEECH* HERE.

WERE THAT BUT *TRUE.*

MISTER CASSIDY, SIR, WHILE A TOUR OF THE CAMPUS IS *CERTAINLY* NECESSARY --

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO START OUR TRAINING SESSION?

YE *ARE,* LASS. RIGHT HERE.

YE'RE LOOKIN' AT THE WORLD'S FIRST -- AND NO DOUBT *ONLY* -- FULLY INTERACTIVE ECOLOGICAL BIO-SPHERE.

ARE YOU SERIOUS, CASSIDY...

...A DANGER GROTTO?!

YA WANT US T'TRAIN IN A *TERRARIUM?*

B-BUT *AH* STUDIED THE LAYOUTS AND SCHEMATICS FOR THE ORIGINAL *AND* THE SHI'AR-BASED DANGER ROOM FOR THE PAST *MONTH!* Y'ALL CAIN'T GO CHANGING THINGS ON ME LIKE THAT!

THOSE *CIRCUITS* AND HOLO- PROJECTIONS YE WERE *STUDYING?*

THEY AREN'T *NEEDED* HERE, LASS.

THIS PLACE WON'T BREAK DOWN AND NEED FIXIN'.

FOR THIS AND *OTHER* REASONS, IT IS FAR *SUPERIOR* TO THE ORIGINAL. *SAFE* AS *SAFE* CAN--

-- BE?

NOW LET GO OF ME!

I WILL -- AS SOON AS YOU LET GO OF ME!

AFTER YOU!

ON THREE?

SI! LINO... DO --

THAT'LL BE MORE'N ENOUGH O' THAT, LADS!

WHICH ONE O'YE CAME UP WITH THE FOOL IDEA O' CROSS-TRAINING AGAINST EACH OTHER?!

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ME, SEAN.

EMMA?

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

ARE YE DAFT, WOMAN?

I THOUGHT WE DECIDED, MS. FROST --

-- THE STUDENTS WOULD LEARN TO USE THEIR POWERS INDIVIDUALLY FIRST?

YOU DECIDED, MISTER CASSIDY.

I ONLY ACQUIESCED TO BE POLITE. AS HEAD ADMINISTRATOR HERE AT XAVIER'S --

-- I FEEL I HAVE SOME SAY IN HOW WE TRAIN THESE YOUNG ADULTS...

...WHO KNOW MORE ABOUT THEIR POWERS THAN YOU SEEM WILLING TO GIVE THEM CREDIT FOR.

POWERS THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IF THEY END UP HURTIN' EACH OTHER.

WHICH THEY ARE CERTAIN TO DO -- IF WE DON'T TRAIN THEM PROPERLY.

ARE THEY LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME?

YEP.

?!

hunh?

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

BLAH BLAH

BLAH

LEE?

NUTHIN', JUST THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHIN'...

BREAKFAST ANYONE...?

LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

SOMEWHERE JUST BEYOND THE FARTHEST RUNWAY.

PROPERTY OF LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE FLESHY HUMAN THING...?

...THE ONE CALLED "JONOTHON STARSMORE?"

HIS PLANE SHOULD BE ARRIVING SHORTLY.

SIR.

I DON'T GET IT.

LOOKING AS HE DOES, THE BOY IS OF NO USE TO ANYONE.

EXCEPT ME.

WHAT IS HE DOING HERE IN THE STATES?

I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW.

SIR.

OF COURSE YOU DON'T, D.

SO I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO WAIT TO ASK HIM MYSELF.

SO, JUBILEE -- WHERE'S EVERYONE *ELSE?*

GUESS NO ONE IS AS *CIVIC-MINDED* AS US, EV.

YOU AND I ARE GOING TO MEET AND GREET THE NEW KID WHILE PAIGE BURIES HER NOSE IN A BOOK --

CAN YOU SAY "*OBSESSIVE*"?

-- ANGELO DOESN'T LIKE PUBLIC APPEARANCES ANYHOW, AND *MONET...?*

MONET COULD NOT BE ANY *LESS* INTERESTED...

...IN ACTING AS MUTANT *GOOD-WILL AMBASSADOR* ON XAVIER'S BEHALF.

CLIMBING TREES, M?

ISN'T THAT, LIKE, TOTALLY *SECOND GRADE?*

AS THE AUTHORITY ON ALL THINGS *IMMATURE,* JUBILEE --

-- I'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT.

HOW COME SHE ALWAYS GETS IN THE LAST DIGS?

Uh... HELLO SIR. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT SOME TREES ARE JUST *MADE* FOR CLIMBING.

CHILD, I MAY BE A *TAD* OVER-PROTECTIVE ABOUT THE *LOT* OF YE --

-- BUT I'M REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT A YOUNG WOMAN WHO CAN *FLY* SUCH AS *YESELF* --

-- SHOULD HAVE NOTHING T'FEAR FROM A *TREE.*

HONK HONK

WILL YE BE *JOINING* US?

THANK YOU FOR *INVITING* ME, SIR, BUT I THINK I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE TIME TO *FAM-ILIARIZE* MYSELF WITH THE CAMPUS.

ME? I THINK SHE JUST HAS TO GO *UNPACK* HER *BUTLER!*

AND -- AND DON'T FERGET TO PUT THE *CAVIAR* AND *FISH EGGS* INTO THE FRIDGE BEFORE THEY *MELT!*

THRUMM

HEY! WHATCHA *DOIN'?!*

WHUMP

SORRY, LASS. NOW BUCKLE UP.

RASSUM FRASSUM...

YOU DID THAT ON *PURPOSE!*

NEVER. NOW BUCKLE UP.

DID *TOO!*

BUCKLE--

I'M *BUCKLIN'!* I'M *BUCKLIN'!*

!?!

HE MAY BE OLDER THAN TIME ITSELF.

SIMILARLY, HE MAY **BEGIN EACH** MOMENT OF HIS LIFE --

-- EACH TIME HE IS **PERCEIVED** TO EXIST BY ANY OTHER SENTIENT BEING.

HE HAS NO **NAME**. YET, HE IS CALLED...

GATEWAY?

IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, **MENTOR**, BUT --

-- THE ENTIRE REASON I CAME HERE IS SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT **CONTINUE** MY TUTELAGE.

WHILE I CERTAINLY ASPIRE TO MORE **LOFTY** AMBITIONS THAN SIMPLY BECOMING A SO-CALLED "X-MAN..."

...ALL INVOLVED PARTIES **FEEL** THEY CAN... PROVIDE...

...THE NECESSARY...

WAIT.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT **ME**.

IT'S **HIM**.

HE'S **RETURNED**...

...HASN'T HE?

THE AIRPORT.

Ahhh, HUMANITY...

WHAT A PATHETIC WASTE OF GENETIC RESOURCES.

EXIT

THE MUTANT CALLED EMPLATE WALKS AMIDST THE HUMANS -- **THERE**, AND **NOT** THERE.

A **FRACTION** OUT OF DIMENSIONAL SYNCH...

...HE IS VIRTUALLY **UNDETECTABLE** TO THOSE AROUND HIM.

WERE IT MY DESIRE, I COULD SLAY THESE HUMAN CHATTLE AT MY LEISURE.

NO DOUBT I WILL. SOMEDAY.

GATE 1

BUT FOR TODAY, I HUNGER. TODAY I --

EH?

THE OLD THING...

...HE POSSESSES A LONG FADED TRACE OF MUTANT ABILITY ABOUT HIM.

OF COURSE, I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FRESHER. **JUICIER.**

TASTIER.

SEVERAL FEET AND A WORLD AWAY...

I GUESS I CAN SEE THEIR POINT, REALLY.

"THEIR" WHO, EV?

YOU'RE LOST

THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SO APPREHENSIVE ABOUT *MUTANTS* SHARING THE PLANET WITH *REGULAR* HUMANS.

THINK ABOUT IT.

THE THREE OF US HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO *LEVEL* THE ENTIRE AIRPORT...

...AND WE WALK THROUGH THE SECURITY GATE WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A "*PLEASE EMPTY YOUR POCKETS OF ALL METAL OBJECTS.*"

THAT, SON, 'TIS ONE OF THE VERY REASONS XAVIER *FOUNDED* HIS SCHOOL.

SIR, WHAT FLIGHT IS THIS?

406, FROM LONDON.

PERFECT.

THANK YE.

EMPLATE **FEELS** IT, IN WHAT IS LEFT OF HIS SOUL...

...BEFORE HE ACTUALLY **SEES** *THE BOY IN THE DISTANCE.*

INCREDIBLE!

NEVER... IN ALL THE TIME I HAVE BEEN SHOPPING FOR GENE FODDER... HAVE I SEEN AN AURA SO...

...DELICIOUSLY RICH.

COME TO ME, JONOTHON STARSMORE.

EMBRACE ME.

FEED ME.

LET ME GUESS... IT'S THE WALKIN' BAND-AID?

POOR GUY.

HE'S HERE BECAUSE HE NEEDS OUR *HELP*, PEOPLE.

HE CAN DO *WITH-OUT* OUR PITY.

SPONTANEITY.

FOR BETTER OR FOR **WORSE**, IT'S ONE OF THE KEY DISTINCTIONS OF LIFE AMONG THE HOMO SUPERIOR.

*IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW **WHEN** EVEN THE MOST **NORMAL** OF SITUATIONS...*

SON?!

JONOTHON?!

...CAN CHANGE IN AN INSTANT...

GATE 1

...FROM THE MUNDANE...

...TO MADNESS...

...OR TO MURDER...

YUM.

WELCOME TO AMERICA, JONOTHON STARSMORE.

NOW DIE.

LET ME AMEND THAT -- FIRST, PROVIDE ME WITH THE GENETIC STUFF OF LIFE I NEED TO SUCK FROM YOUR BONES...

...THEN DIE.

WHAT IN --?!

A MONSTER!

!EEEE!

Oh, MAN!

OUT-FREAKIN'-RAGEOUS!

IN THE MOMENT HE ENGAGES HIS MUTANT POWER --

*-- EMPLATE IS SHUNTED **FULLY** INTO THIS DIMENSION.*

*HE DOES IT **GLEEFULLY** -- **EASILY** -- BECAUSE HE'S CONVINCED THERE IS NOTHING HERE TO **FRUSTRATE** HIS PLANS.*

HE IS WRONG.

WHOA!

JUBILEE --

-- THE GIRL! NOW!!

GOT HER, DUDE!

START *WAILIN'* AT WILL, BANSHEE --

-- YA CAN ASK QUESTIONS *LATER.*

MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY, LASS!

WHAT IS THIS?

I DON'T KNOW WHO OR *WHAT* YOU ARE, CREATURE --

-- BUT I'M TELLING YE *ONCE:*

RELEASE THE LAD!

BEFORE I'VE FINISHED MY MEAL?

NOT LIKELY, MISTER CASSIDY.

NOT EVEN A POSSIBILITY.

!?

HOW DO YE KNOW WHO I AM?

IT'S JUST ONE ASPECT OF MY POWER, SEAN.

MAY I CALL YOU SEAN?

KNOWLEDGE AT A GLANCE.

I SEE YOUR POWER --

-- YOUR PASSION --

-- YOUR PAST AND YOUR PRESENT!

NICE ALLITERATION, UGLIER-THAN-THOU!

CAN YA "SEE" WE'RE GONNA KICK YER BUTT?

NOT IN THIS LIFETIME, CHILD.

YOU SEE, I ALSO POSSESS THE ABILITY TO RECHANNEL ENERGY I HAVE SIPHONED.

IN THIS CASE, JONOTHON'S...

...COMBINED WITH SEAN'S!

BANSHEE?!

EEEEE-NOUGH!

CAREFUL, DUDE --

CAN YOU SYNCH YOUR BOD TO *THAT MUCH* POWER?

APPARENTLY, YES.

GIVE ME A SECOND TO ADJUST...

...AND THIS GUY IS LESS THAN TOAST.

mmm.

THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN.

I'M GETTING FULL JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

YER SICK AND A HALF, CREEP!

YA WANT SOMETHIN' TO CHEW ON, TRY --

NO!

YE'LL ONLY BE GIVIN' THE MONSTER MORE POWER T'THROW BACK AT US!

WHAT A QUICK STUDY, SEAN...

...I'M IMPRESSED.

YOU SINCERELY... WANT TO BE... IMPRESSED ?

TRY THIS... PILLOCK!

WHA--?!

NO ONE HAS EVER USED THEIR POWER WHILE I WAS SIPHONING THEM!

IT'S IM-POSSIBLE!

NOTHING...

...IS IMPOSSIBLE.

AHH, YOUTH --

-- YOU AND YOUR BOUNDLESS OPTIMISM.

I'M SPEAKING FROM EXPERI-ENCE.

IF I CAN LEARN TO ADJUST TO THIS...

...ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

WHOA, AGAIN.

WHOA AGAIN, INDEED.

OVER THE YEARS, I'VE ENJOYED MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUTATIONS --

-- BUT NEVER...

...NEVER HAVE I BEEN A GUEST AT SUCH A VERITABLE SMORGASBORD OF DESIGNER GENES! I'M HONORED.

NOW, IF YOU'LL ALL LINE UP ACCORDING TO --

WHAM

Hmm.

I ACTUALLY FELT THAT.

IT WAS *PAIN*, 'EMPLATE.

GET *USED* TO IT.

YOU HAVE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE, YOUNG LADY...

...YOU KNOW MY NAME, YET I --

-- I AM, FOR SOME REASON, UNABLE TO DISCERN YOURS.

YOU WERE *RIGHT*, M -- WHEN YOU CONVINCED YOUR L'IL MYSTERY FRIEND TO *TELEPORT* US HERE.

BUT *HOW* DID YOU KNOW THE OTHERS WERE IN TROUBLE?!

AS I'VE SAID IN THE PAST -- THERE IS PRECIOUS LITTLE I *DON'T* KNOW.

FINE.

BE OBLIQUE. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO RESOLVE ONE MYSTERY AT A TIME!

HUSK!

"HUSK"? HOW CHARMINGLY APPROPRIATE.

PAIGE!!

...HOW BANSHEE STOOD HELPLESSLY AS HIS TEAMMATE THUNDERBIRD WAS KILLED.

HE CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF HE ISN'T WATCHING HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF.

AS I HAVE SPENT THE BETTER PART OF THE LAST CENTURY RELISHING MY RELATIVE OBSCURITY...

HE IS SUDDENLY REMINDED OF ONE OF THE X-MEN'S EARLIEST MISSIONS...

SCRRUPPT

...I'LL FORGIVE YOU IMPUDENT YOUNGLINGS YOUR IGNORANCE OVER MY EXISTENCE.

BUT PERHAPS THIS WILL GIVE YOU THE SLIGHTEST INDICATION OF MY INTENTIONS.

FEAARGH!

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THIS NEW GENERATION OF MUTANTS LOST ONE OF THEIR OWN IN BATTLE AGAINST THE ALIEN LIFE FORMS CALLED THE PHALANX.

ALL CONCERNED PARTIES HERE ARE DETERMINED...

...TO SEE THAT PAIGE GUTHRIE DOESN'T SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS THE LATE CLARICE FERGUSON.*

M, GRAB HUSK AND GET HER TO A HOS --

*SEE X-MEN #37 --BOB

WAIT, BANSHEE! I DON'T THINK THAT'S MAJOR, YET!

IF I'M RIGHT...WE CAN SAVE HER RIGHT HERE!

THAT IS, IF I CAN KEEP FROM SPEWING MY LUNCH...

EEYEWW!

SSRIPT

SURP

KRRKT

CHHP

THERE YA' GO, HAYSEED...A NEW BOD UNDERNEATH.

AN' FOR THE RECORD -- THAT WAS A ONE TIME OFFER!

AND DON'T THINK I DON'T APPRECIATE IT.

SO WHAT'S THE GIG, SNUFFLEUPAGUS? YOU WERE TOTALLY BUFF WHEN YOU TRIED TO AMBUSH SPARKY, HERE...

...BUT WHY DO I DOUBT YER READY TO MIX IT UP WITH THE REST OF US COMBINED?

DON'T TAUNT HIM, JUBILEE. IF HE WANTED TO, HE --

SHHHH, CHILD...

...YOU'LL RUIN THE ENDING.

WHICH'LL BE ANY MOMENT, ALTHOUGH I DINNAE BELIEVE YOU'LL BE WAITING AROUND FOR IT, WILL YE?

AM I THAT TRANSPARENT, SEAN?

SHAME ON ME.

BUT BEFORE I GO, UNDERSTAND THIS...

...AFTER I HAVE SUPPED UPON THE MARROW OF OTHERS LIKE YOURSELVES... I WILL RETURN.

KNOW THAT WHEREVER YOU GO, I CAN SEE YOU.

WHEREVER YOU RUN, I CAN FOLLOW.

WHEREVER YOU HIDE... I CAN FIND YOU.

AND I WILL.

KNOW THAT I WILL DEVOUR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU...

...ONE MORSEL AT A TIME...

...AND THAT THERE IS NOT A BLESSED THING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME.

BON APPETIT, CHILDREN.

WAIT -- WE CAN STOP HIM FROM DISAPPEAR --

WHA !?!

C-CAN'T ...MOVE?

WHAT JUST *HAPPENED?*

I DID.

I HAPPENED.

WE NEARLY LOST HUSK TO HER *HOT-HEADEDNESS*, M. I WANTED TO PREVENT AN *ENCORE PERFORMANCE*, SO I TELEPATHICALLY COMMANDEERED YOUR THOUGHTS FOR AN INSTANT.

DON'T

EVER

ENTER MY MIND AGAIN.

ARE WE *CLEAR* ON THIS?

DON'T BE SO *SENSITIVE*, CHILD. I WAS ONLY SAVING YOUR LIFE.

EXCUSE ME...BUT AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS THIS *ODD*?

WHY DOES IT SEEM LIKE WE'RE *INVISIBLE* TO EVERYONE AROUND US?

BECAUSE WE *ARE*, ANGELO.

I'M USING MY POWER TO MAKE US PSI-BLIND TO THE HERD.

SMAK

"HERD"?

CHARLES, WHAT HAVE YE GOTTEN ME *INTO*?

SO, SPARKY...

JONOTHON.

MY NAME...IS JONOTHON.

TAXI

SO, JONOTHON... *WELCOME* TO *GENERATION X*.

WAY

DOA

WAY AWAY

SO. HOW'D IT GO?

SIR.

SHUT UP, YOU -- YOU NOTHING!

OPEN UP THE DOOR, QUICKLY!

FEEDING AGAIN -- SO SOON AFTER THE *LAST* SNACK?

IS THAT *WISE*?

KLAK

SIR.

THE BATTLE TOOK A LOT OUT OF--

SHE'S GONE!

AFTER YEARS OF ACTING AS MY SOLE SUSTENANCE...

WHAT AM I TO DO WITHOUT HER?!

DON'T WORRY.

WE'LL FIND YOUR MEAL TICKET.

SIR.

WOW.

IS THAT A *CIGARETTE*, DUDE?

I AM SOOOO IMPRESSED.

I HAVE A LIST OF PEOPLE I TRY TO IMPRESS, *CHICA* --

-- AND, SURPRISE, *SURPRISE*, YOU'RE NOWHERE ON IT.

ABOVE

LIGHTEN UP, SEAN.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T *NOTICE* --

-- WE *WON*.

I WISH I COULD SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM. BUT AS IT IS --

-- WE DON'T KNOW *WHAT* WE'RE UP AGAINST.

JONOTHON?

EXCUSE THE INTRUSION...

...BUT I BELIEVE THERE IS...

...SOMEONE HERE TO *SEE* YOU...

CREEAK

S'UP, SEAN -- WE GOT *COMPANY?*

MAYBE.

BUT UNTIL I KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT...I WANT THE *LOT* OF YE TO *STAY PUT!*

OUTSIDE

THIS IS STARTING TO *IRRITATE* ME...

GATEWAY!

AS MUCH AS I APPRECIATE YE HELPING AGAINST EMPLATE TODAY --

-- THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS, I DINNAE WANT YE *HANGING OUT* HERE -- FOR *WHATEVER* YE REASONS --

-- *COMING* AND GOING AS YE *PLEASE!*

IF'N YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, MAN, JUST *SAY* IT!

P

PE

!?!

PENANCE.

Y-YE... *SPOKE?!*

YE *ACTUALLY* SPOKE!

I DON'T THINK HE MEANT IT AS A *VERB*, SEAN.

IT SEEMS TO ME HE WAS REFERRING...

HUSK

...TO HER!

A SURPRISE.

NATURE'S WAY OF SAYING, "I'M STILL IN CONTROL."

"YOU NEVER KNOW *WHAT'S* GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT.

"TRY AGAIN TOMORROW..."

NEXT: MORE ON THE MYSTERY OF PENANCE! JUBILEE CONFRONTS GATEWAY, M INVESTIGATES EMPLATE, AND SKIN AND HUSK PLAY SCRABBLE... HONEST

sketchbook
penance
body atrophied to
the point of diamond
razor hardness
untouchable both
physically and
emotionally
The Uniform/costu
done over span o
3 days.
3 long days
£5
FUJEIRA
HER MAJE

16...cool--calm--collected...powers of flight...incredible intellect and strength...too good to be true?...boys are "yucky"...cross between jean grey and rain man...

jubilation lee...
13 and a half...
former socal mall rat, pyrotechnic...
favorite phrase...
"when i was with the x-men we used to..."

chamber
jonathan evan starsmore...british ...what's left of an angry young man...scarred cultured..."psionic howl from the grave" type...
18...attitude problem...

s k i n
has more skin than his body needs..and enough chutzpah for everybody...

synch
calm...over-confident...
portrait of synchronicity...
possessed of the ability
to alter mutagenetic
aura accordingly...
husk
paige guthrie...
a girl not willing to
live in the shadow of
her brother...american.
shucks...part jean grey
part will rogers...
self-induced
metamorphoses...
mondo
samoan...unshakable...
gregarious...absorbs
living mass...needs to develop
battle instinct...
art...chris bachalo. words...scott lobdell. designs...suzanne gaffney.
YES!

MARVEL COMICS

DEC • 2

X-MEN

• DELUXE •

GENERATION X

CHRIS-N-BUCKY

SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO COME IN OUT OF THE RAIN.

LOOK, JUBILEE -- I'D LIKE TO THINK I'M AS SUPPORTIVE AS THE NEXT GUY --

-- BUT IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?

NO -- I'M JUST OUT HERE 'CAUSE I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO WORK THE GIRLS' SHOWERS!

DUH!

NOW SHUT UP, EVERETT, SO I CAN ASK OUR "BUDDY" HERE SOME QUESTIONS!

THEN THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE JUBILATION LEE.

PEOPLE WHO THRIVE ON THE WIND, RAIN, THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.

PEOPLE WHO ARE MOST AT HOME IN THE CENTER OF THE STORM.

STAN LEE presents

GENERATION X

in

SEARCHING

created by SCOTT LOBDELL & CHRIS BACHALO

inked by MARK BUCKINGHAM

lettered by STARKINGS & COMICRAFT

colored by BUCCELLATO & ELECTRIC CRAYON

edited by BOB HARRAS

editor in chief TOM DEFALCO

YOU PROBABLY KNOW *GATEWAY* BETTER THAN I DO --

-- FROM HIS DAYS HANGING WITH THE *X-MEN* IN THE *AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK* --

-- BUT I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT IF HE'S OUT HERE, IT *PROBABLY* MEANS HE'S LOOKING FOR SOME *PRIVATE SPACE.*

DOUBLE DUH!

SINCE THE *FIRST* PORTAL I EVER SAW HIM OPEN --

-- THE ONE THAT HOOKED EVERYONE'S FAVORITE *ORPHAN* UP WITH THE X-MEN IN THE *FIRST* PLACE* --

-- I'VE SEEN HIM *BOP AROUND* LIKE IT'S NOBODY'S BUSINESS *WHAT* HE DOES OR *WHY* HE DOES IT.

SO HE'S EITHER GONNA *SPILL* HIS GUTS -- ONCE AND FOR *ALL* --

-- OR I'M GONNA GIVE HIM A MAJOR *'TUDE ADJUSTMENT!*

*UNCANNY X-MEN #244 --BOB

SO HOW IS THIS GONNA GO DOWN, GATEWAY?

I MEAN, IT WAS *YOUR* IDEA TO DROP THAT "*GIRL*" OFF ON THE FRONT STOOP --

-- YOU CALLED HER *PENANCE,* RIGHT?

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TA *BANSHEE,* YA CAN AT LEAST TELL US *SOMETHIN' ABOUT* HER!

YO!

I SHOULD LET YA KNOW I GET *TORKED* WHEN PEOPLE *IGNORE* ME!

*LAST ISSUE --BOB

Um...

MAYBE IT'S AN ENGLISH THING?

THAT DOES IT!

I WARNED YA, YA --

JUMP DOWN, J.

THIS "OLD MAN" --

-- GOT ME OFF A MALL IN SO-CAL, AND LANDED ME WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER MUTANTS.

YOU CAN'T HAUL OFF AND SLUG SOME OLD MAN.

I USED TO THINK IT WAS LIKE, AN ACCIDENT.

AND NOW..?

NOW I WONDER IF MAYBE HE DIDN'T HAVE SOMETHIN' PLANNED ALL ALONG, EV.

I WONDER IF I AIN'T JUST BEEN USED THIS WHOLE TIME!

THE CRACK OF THUNDER MINGLES WITH THE SLAMMING OF THE BELFRY DOOR --

-- AND AS HE ALWAYS HAS BEEN, AND AS HE BELIEVES HE ALWAYS WILL BE --

-- THE ABORIGINE KNOWN ONLY AS GATEWAY IS ALONE.

PHYSICALLY.

IN HIS HEART AND SOUL, HOWEVER, HE DOUBTS IF HE'LL EVER KNOW SOLITUDE...

...OR FORGIVENESS FOR A MULTITUDE OF SINS MADE IN THE NAME OF SELF-PRESERVATION.

HE WONDERS IF HE'LL EVER KNOW PEACE.

SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS AWAY...

...ACROSS THE QUAD THAT RUNS THE LENGTH OF XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS HERE IN MASSACHUSETTS...

ARE YOU ALWAYS SO IRREPRESSIVELY MACHO, SEAN?

IF I WERE THE ONE WHO NEARLY HAD MY HANDS SLICED OFF WHEN I WENT TO LIFT THAT GIRL OFF THE GROUND --

-- I WOULD HAVE COME UP WITH A MOUTHFUL OF EXPLETIVES AT THE VERY LEAST.

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, I'M TAPING YOUR WOUNDS AND YOU BARELY LET OUT A SINGLE PEEP.

T'BE HONEST, EMMA -- I DINNAE WANT TO BE UPSETTING THE CHILDREN.

BUT SINCE 'TIS JUST ME AND YE, LASS..?

YES?

OUCH.

OUCH.

OUCH OUCHOUCH OUCH!

IF IT HURTS THAT MUCH, BANSHEE --I COULD PSIONICALLY STIMULATE THE PAIN KILLING SECTION OF YOUR BRAIN.

IT'D BE MY... PLEASURE.

WHY DON'T I DOUBT THAT?

YE SHOULD KNOW, WOMAN -- IF'N YE EVER FEEL THE NEED T'PLAY WITH ME MIND...

...YE BETTER HOPE 'TIS WORTH IT.

'CAUSE, MAKE NO MISTAKE, EMMA --

-- IT'LL ONLY BE HAPPENING ONCE.

er...

MISTER CASSIDY?

MS. FROST?

I BELIEVE I MIGHT HAVE SOME OF THE ANSWERS WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR...

...REGARDING *PENANCE* -- WHERE SHE CAME *FROM*, AT THE VERY *LEAST*.

HOW *LIKELY* IS IT, *MONET*...

...*YOU'D* BE ABLE TO TELL *MORE* ABOUT HER THAN *I* CAN, CONSIDERING A *PSIONIC SCAN* SHOWS ME *NOTHING* ABOUT HER THOUGHTS?

ROOMS 201→207

INFIRMARY

MS. FROST IS *RIGHT*, CHILD...UNLESS YE HAVE SOME KIND OF *MENTAL POWERS* YE'VE *YET* TO REVEAL.

NOTHING SO *DRAMATIC*, SIR. IT'S JUST SOME GOOD OLD FASHIONED *DEDUCTIVE REASONING*.

I'M SURE IF WE LOOK AT WHAT NOMINAL INFORMATION IS *AVAILABLE* TO US -- YOU'LL AGREE WE MAY KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS MYSTERY THAN WE *REALIZED* AT FIRST GLANCE.

AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE YOU RAN ALL YOUR *EMPIRICAL DATA* THROUGH A COMPUTER SYSTEM SO *SOPHISTI-CATED*--

-- YOU COULDN'T *POSSIBLY* BEGIN TO USE IT WITHOUT *MONTHS* OF INTENSIVE INSTRUCTION?

HOW POSITIVELY *ADORABLE*.

ACTUALLY, I ONLY USED THE COMPUTER TO HELP *DEMONSTRATE* MY *THEORIES*...

...ASSUMING IT WOULD HELP *EVERYONE* UNDER-STAND WHAT IT IS I'M *TALKING ABOUT*.

YOU'LL STOP ME IF I GET TOO FAR AHEAD OF YOU?

I'LL --

Shush, EMMA. LET'S HEAR HER OUT.

TIK TAK TAPTIPTA

THANK YOU, SIR.

WE WERE LOOKING TO GATEWAY AS A POINT OF ORIGIN FOR PENANCE, WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT --

-- TO ME, AT LEAST --

TAK

-- THAT SHE CLEARLY HAS MORE DEFINITIVE TIES TO SOME-ONE ELSE. TO WHIT...

AS THE HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE SHIMMERS INTO VIEW...

...ALL THREE MUTANTS CAN SCARCELY REPRESS A COLLECTIVE SHUDDER.

SUCH IS THE EFFECT OF THE MERE VISAGE OF THE MUTANT CALLED EMPLATE.

IN THE PAST, MANY OF THE MORE CORRUPT OF MUTANTS MAY HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO THE DESTRUCTION OR CONQUEST OF THOSE AROUND THEM --

-- BUT EMPLATE'S SOLE INTEREST IN HIS GENETIC PEERS... IS MERELY CONSUMPTION OF THE YOUNG.

HE "EATS" MUTANTS, SUCKING THE VERY MARROW FROM THEIR BONES.

WORSE YET, HE ENJOYS IT.

EMMA, WHAT IS THIS?!

YE'VE HAD INFORMATION ON THIS BEASTIE IN YUIR COMPUTERS -- AND YE DINNAE REVEAL IT BEFORE NOW?!

SEAN, BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU I HAD NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF --

IT WAS ME. LIKE I SAID --

-- IT TOOK A FEW MINUTES TO INPUT EVERY DETAIL FROM MEMORY, BUT I THINK IT WAS WELL SPENT.

DON'T YOU?

THE FIRST CLUE IS VISUAL. THEIR HAIR...

...THE "SPIKEY" SIMILARITIES ARE INDISPUTABLE.

WE ALSO KNOW HE WAS TRYING TO *ABSORB* JONOTHON'S -- OR "*CHAMBER*," I GUESS WE'RE CALLING HIM -- *POWER* INTO HIS BODY.

POWERS, LIKE *YOURS*, SIR, THAT HE MANAGED TO MAINTAIN FOR A *SHORT WHILE.*

...THE MORE LIKELY EMPLATE IS TO *MAINTAIN* THE SUBJECT'S PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES. BASED ON PENANCE'S EXHAUSTED, STARVING, AND *ATROPHIED* CONDITION, I PROPOSE SHE HAD BEEN EMPLATE'S *MAJOR* SOURCE OF SUSTENANCE FOR SOME TIME....

SEEMS SOUND T'*ME*, LASS...

...AS SOUND A WORKIN' THEORY AS ANY WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT.

-- AREN'T FOR *DECORATION* OR *MODESTY*...

SO YE'RE SAYIN' THE LONGER EMPLATE IS IN *CONTACT* WITH A VICTIM...

INTERESTING. SO THEN THOSE STRAPS OF MATERIAL ON HER BODY --

...THEY'RE *RESTRAINTS.*

ACCH.

MY HEART *BLEEDS* AT THE THOUGHT OF WHAT THE WEE GIRL MUST HAVE *EXPERIENCED* AT THAT CREATURE'S HANDS.

I'*M* CURIOUS HOW THE EXPERIENCE AFFECTED HER *PSYCHE.*

EVEN WITH THE MOST *SEVERE* TRAUMA, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS *SOME* THOUGHT PATTERNS.

BUT WITH HER I ONLY FIND AN *EMPTY SHELL.* WHY?

IT IS A QUESTION THEY INTEND TO ANSWER IN THE MORNING...

...WHEN THEIR PATIENT AWAKES.

LEAVING HER ALONE, THE TRIO ARE NOT ON HAND TO LEARN THAT THE GIRL THEY CALL PENANCE...

...HAS HER OWN AGENDA.

A SIMPLE ONE:

SURVIVAL.

IT BEGINS...

...NOW.

ELSEWHERE ON THE GROUNDS...

TWO DOUBLE LETTERS...ONE TRIPLE WORD... USING ALL MY LETTERS...

THAT IS THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE POINTS FOR ME! SPLENDID!

NOT BAD FOR A BOY FROM THE BARRIO, *Eh*, BONITA?

YEAH, WHATEVAH.

MY OWN FAULT FOR TRYING TO PLAY SCRABBLE *AND* STUDY *QUANTUM PHYSICS* AT THE SAME TIME.

OF COURSE, IF MY *LATIN* WERE BETTER...

...IN THE REC COTTAGE...

EXCUSE ME, PAIGE?

I SAID, "YES. WHATEVER." CONGRATULATIONS, *ANGELO*.

YOU'RE STILL *WINNING*, RIGHT?

HATE TO *BREAK* THIS TO YOU, PUMPKIN...

-- BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE T'HEAR THIS *SOONER* OR *LATER* --

-- ALL THE WIDE-RIM *GLASSES* AND BIG *BOOKS* AND LATE NIGHT STUDY JAMS...

...AREN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH TO *MAKE* YOU SOMETHING YOU'RE *NOT*.

Oh?

HOW *ENLIGHTENING*.

TELL ME, CITY MOUSE...

...WHAT, EXACTLY, *AM I*?

I'M TOO MUCH OF A *GENTLEMAN*...

...TO SAY IT *OUT LOUD*.

-:Hmmp:- "*GENTLEMAN*" ISN'T THE *FIRST* WORD TO COME TO MY MIND.

REALLY, *COUNTRY MOUSE*?

SHARE WITH ME.

SPELLING IT OUT DOESN'T MAKE YOUR HOLLOW ASSESSMENT *REAL*, GIRL --

-- ANY MORE THAN YOUR *PRETENDING* TO BE SOME KIND OF CULTURED *INTELLECT* MAKES YOU ANY LESS THAN THE BACK-WATER FARM *GRINGA* THAT YOU *ARE*.

I'M NOT THE ONE WHO SPELLED "*BXLOMRMLEZQ...*"

...*AM* I?

"*CHILDREN*," *PLEASE*...

THE AMOUNT OF IMMATURITY POURING...

...OUT OF THIS ROOM IS POSITIVELY...

...OVER-WHELMING.

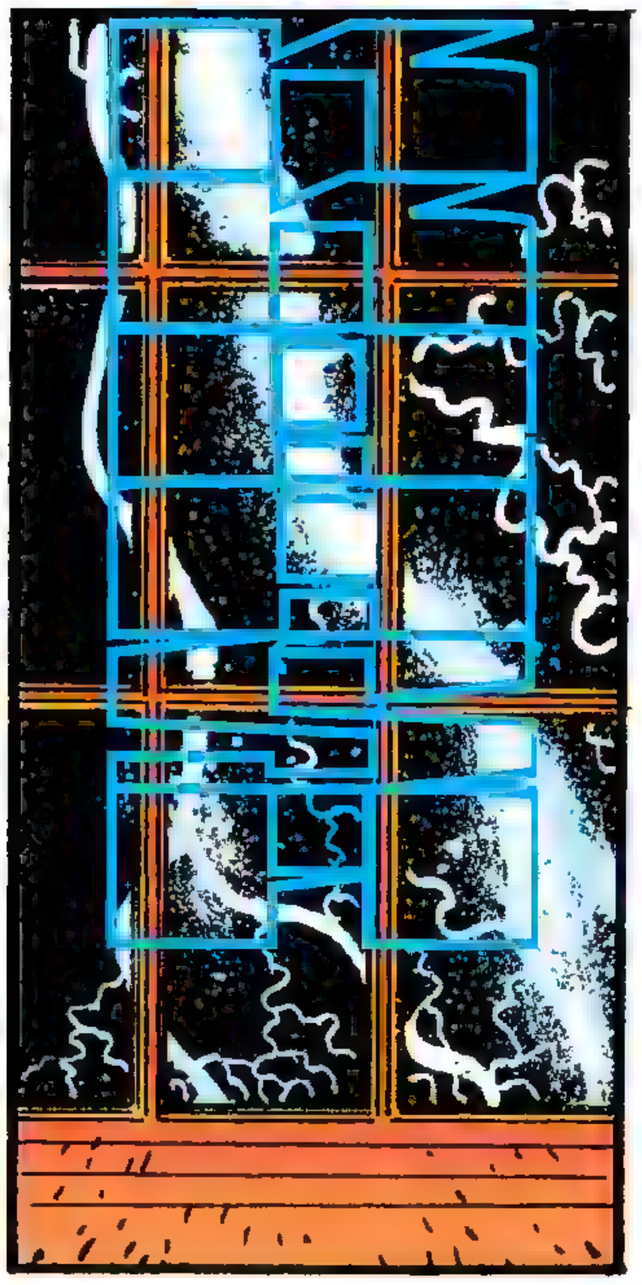
NICE FLAIR FOR THE *DRAMATIC ENTRANCE*, CHAMBER.

BUT IF YOU THINK *EITHER ONE* OF US IS GOING TO BE SCHOOLED ON "*MATURITY*" --

-- BY SOMEONE STANDING IN THE *RAIN*...

...LATER FOR *YOU*, MAN.

MUCH.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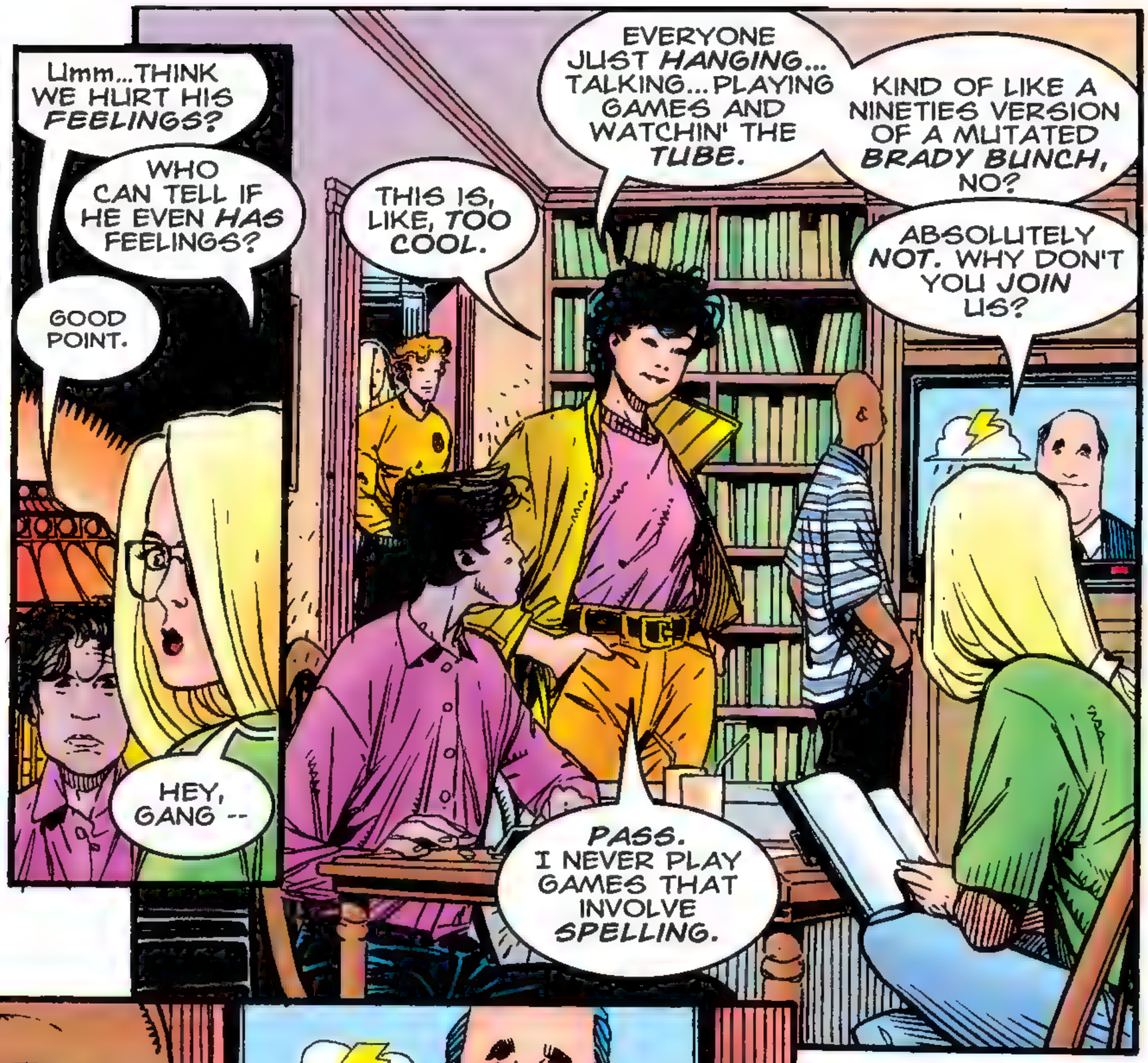
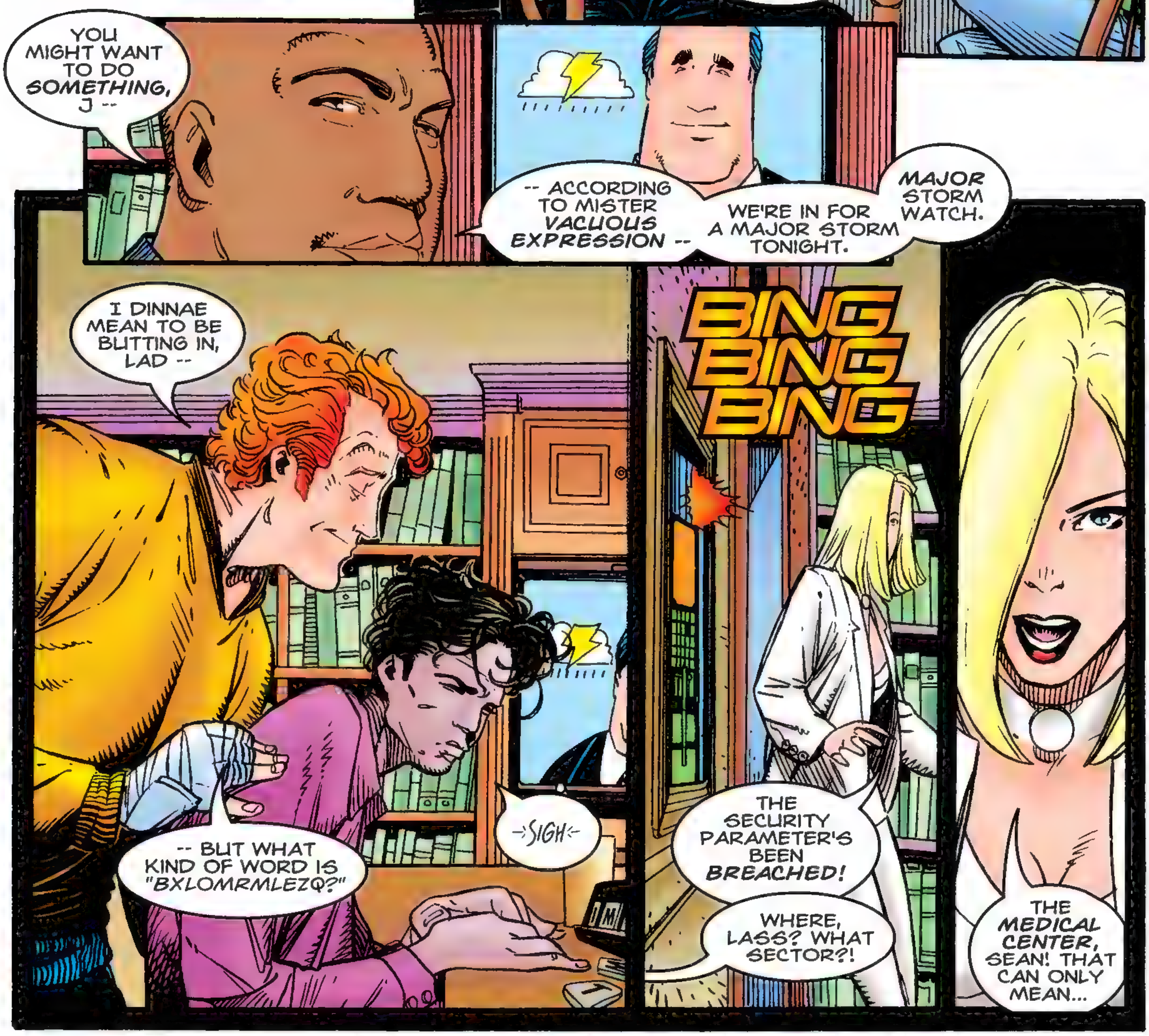

Umm...THINK WE HURT HIS FEELINGS?
WHO CAN TELL IF HE EVEN HAS FEELINGS?
GOOD POINT.
HEY, GANG --
THIS IS, LIKE, TOO COOL.
EVERYONE JUST HANGING... TALKING... PLAYING GAMES AND WATCHIN' THE TUBE.
KIND OF LIKE A NINETIES VERSION OF A MUTATED BRADY BUNCH, NO?
ABSOLUTELY NOT. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?
PASS. I NEVER PLAY GAMES THAT INVOLVE SPELLING.


YOU MIGHT WANT TO DO SOMETHING, J --
-- ACCORDING TO MISTER VACUOUS EXPRESSION --
WE'RE IN FOR A MAJOR STORM TONIGHT.
MAJOR STORM WATCH.
I DINNAE MEAN TO BE BUTTING IN, LAD --
BING BING BING
-- BUT WHAT KIND OF WORD IS "BXLOMRMLEZQ?"
-SIGH-
THE SECURITY PARAMETER'S BEEN BREACHED!
WHERE, LASS? WHAT SECTOR?!
THE MEDICAL CENTER, SEAN! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN...

"...PENANCE HAS ESCAPED!"

IMPOSSIBLE!

THAT WALL WAS REINFORCED WITH AN OMNIUM POLYMER.

WOLVERINE, IN HIS PRIME, WOULD HAVE CHIPPED A CLAW.

NOT LIKELY, WOMAN.

EVERYONE STAY BACK UNTIL WE'RE SURE SHE'S NOT LURKING ABOUT SOMEWHERE.

SHE'S GONE, SIR. TRUST ME.

I CAN SEE IN THE DARK, AND WHAT I SEE IS...

...JUBILEE?

WHOA.

HER POSSE, WHOEVER THEY ARE, MUST HAVE DECIDED TO SPRING HER.

POP

PIP

POP

POP

PIP

PIP

POP

A FRIGHTENING PROSPECT, THAT THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER VERSION OF PENANCE --

-- LET ALONE A MULTITUDE.

BUT LOOK AT THE LENGTH AND WIDTH OF THE MARKS, JUBILEE --

-- HOW THEY SPREAD OUT FROM THE POINT OF ORIGIN OF THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT...

"...IT'S UNDENIABLE.

"PENANCE DID ALL THIS DAMAGE... HERSELF."

FREEDOM.

SHE'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN WHAT IT MEANT.

NOT THE WORD, OF COURSE, SINCE SHE'D NEVER HEARD IT IN HER NATIVE LAND.

BUT THE FEELING ITSELF.

THE ONLY MEMORIES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN...

...ALL INVOLVE THE HURT AND PAIN AND HOPELESSNESS...

...THAT DEFINED HER MARGINAL EXISTENCE AT THE HANDS OF HER TORMENTOR.

BUT TONIGHT SHE IS FREE.

AND SHE INTENDS TO REMAIN SO...

...FOREVER.

NO MATTER THE COST TO HER --

-- OR ANY OTHER.

LISTEN CLOSE, LADS AND LASSES...

...THE STORM IS GETTING WORSE, AND TIME IS O'THE ESSENCE!

WE'LL SPLIT INTO TEAMS O' TWO. HUSK AND I WILL TRY THE NORTH CAMPUS, EMMA AND M THE SOUTH.

THE WEST END OPENS ONTO THE RIVER, SO THE REMAINING FOUR OF YE CAN CONCENTRATE ON --

I WON'T BE GOING, SEÑOR CASSIDY.

I'LL... MONITOR AND COORDINATE THE SCHEME OVER THE COMM-LINKS!

SOMEONE SHOULD... BE HERE WHEN SHE RETURNS!

NOT MUCH CHANCE OF THAT HAPPENING, ANGELO.

AND AS MUCH AS I APPRECIATE AND ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THOUGHT -- NOW ISN'T THE BEST TIME T'BE CONTRADICTIN' ME.

SO GET YOUR HIND QUARTERS IN GEAR AND --

THE BOY IS RIGHT, BANSHEE... IT'D BE BEST FOR EVERYONE IF HE STAYED!

TRUST ME ON THIS, CASSIDY.

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.

FINE. THEN THE REMAINING THREE OF YE CAN CONCEN-TRATE ON THE EAST SIDE O'--

TWO OF US, SEAN!

CHAMBER -- SHOCK O' SHOCKS -- KINDA WANDERED OFF ON HIS OWN...

THE WEST END OF THE CAMPUS.

THE RIVER.

JONOTHON STARSMORE DIDN'T SPEAK TO PENANCE WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT THE SCHOOL --

-- NOR SHE TO HIM.

YET HE SEES IN HER BATTERED AND BRUISED FORM...

...A KINDRED SPIRIT.

HE KNOWS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE TRAPPED WITHIN ONE'S SELF --

-- BETRAYED AND RAVAGED BY THE HORROR OF ONE'S OWN BODY.

SOMEHOW, IN HIS HEART, HE UNDERSTANDS SHE WILL FIND HER WAY...

...HERE.

TO HIM.

THE NORTH SIDE OF CAMPUS...

PENANCE!

SHOUTING HER NAME WON'T BE DOING *ANY* GOOD, PAIGE --

-- FOR'N WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE *'TIS HER* NAME AT *ALL.*

RIGHT.

FORGOT.

GUESS I'M A LITTLE *EAGER,* Huh?

A TAD. DINNAE BE *SO* EAGER THAT YE MISS CLUES RIGHT UNDER YE *NOSE.*

LET'S *DOUBLE BACK* AND MEET UP WITH THE OTHERS. IT'S OBVIOUS SHE *DIDN'T* COME *THIS* WAY.

OBVIOUS, IS IT?

THEN WHAT ABOUT *THIS?*

YA -- *FOUND* SOMETHIN', SIR?

THEY LOOK LIKE... *HAND PRINTS?* AS IF SHE STOPPED TO *REST* BY--

ACCH!

-:mmwt:- EVEN THE GOUGE IS *RAZOR SHARP,* AND NOT BECAUSE O' ANYTHING SHE DID ON *PURPOSE,* I'LL WAGER.

WHICH MEANS OUR FRIEND IS ONE *DANGEROUS* LITTLE GIRL...

...WHETHER SHE *MEANS* TO BE OR NOT.

SO...NOW WE *KNOW,* SHE -- *er* -- CAME *THIS* WAY...

...WHERE DO YOU THINK SHE'S *GOING?*

I DON'T KNOW, TO BE SURE... BUT LET'S FIND OUT *TOGETHER*... SHALL WE?

REMEMBER PAIGE, THERE'S A *REASON* THE X-MEN -- EVEN *X-FORCE* -- ARE A *TEAM*.

SOME-TIMES TWO CAN ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN *ONE*, LASS.

NOW, IF YE'LL *EXCUSE* ME...

SMART MOVE, *GAL*.

TRY TO IMPRESS THE TEACHER BY SHOWIN' HIM *EXACTLY* HOW GREEN AH AM.

AH MEAN, *LOOK* AT HIM... USIN' HIS *SONIC SCREAM* AND THE *RAIN* AS SOME KINDA' *MUTANT SONAR!*

FACE IT, GUTHRIE. THE GUY'S BEEN DOIN' THIS TYPE OF STUFF LONGER'N AH'VE BEEN *ALIVE*.

AAAAND

BINGO!

THE *VERY THING* WE WERE SEARCHING FOR.

PHONE IT IN.

YES, SIR.

SKIN? CAN YOU *HEAR* ME?!

LOUD AND CLEAR, CHICA.

¿QUE PASA?

THE SOUTH SIDE OF CAMPUS...

M

DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S NECESSARY TO *OBLITERATE EVERYTHING* IN YOUR PATH, M?

NOT AT ALL -- I WAS ONLY REMOVING THE FALLEN TREE...

...BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP FACILITATE YOU *KEEPING UP* WITH ME.

YOU'RE *TOO KIND*, CHILD.

CONDE-SCENDING, BUT KIND.

HOLD UP.

ACCORDING TO SKIN... BANSHEE'S *FOUND* SOMETHING.

LET'S GO BACK THEM UP.

PERFECTLY LOGICAL.

NOW, SINCE YOU MADE IT CLEAR YOU DON'T *NEED* MY ASSIS-TANCE --

-- YOU'LL EXCUSE ME IF I *FLY AHEAD?*

THIS *ATTITUDE* OF YOURS, M -- IS IT BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID AT THE *AIRPORT*...

...WHEN I TELEPATHICALLY *GRABBED* YOUR MIND?

*SEE OUR FIRST ISSUE -BOB

YOU DON'T LIKE ME VERY MUCH, DO YOU?

MS. FROST, I DON'T EVEN *KNOW* YOU.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DECIDE WHETHER I *LIKE* YOU OR NOT?

TOUCHÉ, M.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOU THAT *INFURIATES* ME?

PERHAPS BECAUSE YOU'RE SO PERFECTLY *AT EASE* WITH YOUR ABILITIES?

IT'S NEVER MORE DIFFICULT TO *MANIPULATE* SOMEONE THAN WHEN--

WHA --?!

THE *TREE*?

GRANTED --

?!

-- I DON'T LIKE THAT YOU *TRAIPSE ABOUT* IN PEOPLE'S HEADS.

NOR AM I A FAN OF WHAT YOU *WEAR*...

...OR, MORE *ACCURATELY*, WHAT YOU *DON'T* WEAR.

BUT IT WILL BE A *LONG* TIME, NO DOUBT --

-- BEFORE I CAN SAY WITH *ANY ASSURANCE*...

...THAT I DON'T *LIKE* YOU.

INTERLUDE
MONACO.
SPECIFICALLY, THE ESTATE OF CARTIER ST.CROIX.
FORMERLY --
-- THE PRESIDENT OF SEVERAL CORPORATIONS.
CURRENTLY --
-- AN ECCENTRIC.
A BIT OF A LOON...
...IN A WELL-GUARDED CAGE.
-PFFT-
THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY.
SAY "G'NIGHT," MISTER PRESIDENT.
M-MY...
...MY HAND?
N-NO -- JUST MY GLOVE.
BUT HOW -- WHY?!
NANNY?!
END INTERLUDE

WHY'D YOU STOP, SIR?

I DIDN'T, LASS. THE *FOOTPRINTS* DID.

IT'S AS IF SHE JUST *DISAPPEARED*, LIKE A *WILL O' THE WISP.*

Um... MAYBE SHE CAN TURN *INVISIBLE?*

P'RHAPS. BUT SHE'D *STILL* LEAVE FOOTPRINTS.

RIGHT. SO SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO *TELEPORT?*

POSSIBLY, BUT WHY WOULDN'T SHE HAVE USED THAT POWER *BEFORE NOW?*

WHY WOULD SHE HAVE *HACKED* AND *CLAWED* HER WAY OUT OF THE MEDICAL CENTER T'*BEGIN* WITH?

NO... I SUSPECT SHE'S STILL *NEARBY.*

LET'S SUPPOSE SHE LEAPT *CLEAR* O' HER *LAST STEP*...

...GETTING AS FAR AS... *HERE?*

SIR?

SHE -- STEPPED *IN* T'THE GROUND.

MUST'VE *DOUBLED BACK.*

WE ARE *NOT* TRACKING HER --

-- AS MUCH AS *SHE* IS TRACKING *US!*

THOUGH SHE'D NEVER ADMIT IT --

-- PAIGE GUTHRIE HAD EVERY INTENTION OF SCREAMING.

NOT FOR "HELP," PER SE.

JUST A SCREAM OF PURE, UNBRIDLED TERROR...

...WELLING UP FROM THE CENTER OF HER BEING.

MERCIFULLY, FOR HER EGO...

...SHE NEVER HAS THE CHANCE.

HUSK!

THWOP

STUPID, SEAN! STUPIDSTUPID STUPID!

SO BUSY PLAYING THE WISE OLE' SAGE, YE DIDN'T NOTICE WHAT WAS RIGHT UNDER YE NOSE!

NOW CONCENTRATE!

LISIN' ME SONIC SCREAM T'STAY ONE FOOT BEHIND THEM --

-- SO I DON'T ACCIDENTALLY HURT EITHER ONE O'THEM WITH A STRAY BLAST!

BETWEEN ME OWN POWER, PENANCE BURROWIN' AROUND DOWN THERE...

...AND NATURAL UNDERGROUND POCKETS...WITH ANY LUCK AT ALL...

PAIGE ?

HE ASSUMES PENANCE IS LONG GONE.

SKREE

HE IS WRONG.

AND AS HER RAZOR-SHARP FINGERS **INSINUATE** THEMSELVES INTO HIS **OPEN MOUTH** --

-- EFFECTIVELY **DENYING** HIM THE USE OF HIS ONLY **MUTANT ABILITY**...

...SEAN CASSIDY REALIZES THAT HIS OVERWHELMING **CONCERN** FOR HIS STUDENT MAY HAVE PROMPTED THE **FINAL MISTAKE** OF HIS LIFE.

2B CONTINUED... OR DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT ALREADY?

MARVEL COMICS

JAN • 3

X-MEN®

• DELUXE •

GENERATION X

TM

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CHRIS N BUCKY 94

HE'S SUPPOSED TO SCREAM.

AS THE MUTANT CALLED BANSHEE, SEAN CASSIDY SHOULD BE ABLE TO SHATTER STEEL WITH HIS SONIC WAIL.

WORST CASE SCENARIO, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE HIS GENETIC ABILITIES TO FLY AWAY.

BUT WITH HIS MOUTH PRIED OPEN BY THE RAZOR-SHARP FINGERS OF THE CHILD CALLED PENANCE --

-- SHRIEKING, FOR WHATEVER REASON, IS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

DEAD SILENCE

STAN LEE presents

GENERATION X

created by

SCOTT LOBDELL & CHRIS BACHALO

inked by MARK BUCKINGHAM

lettered by RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT

colored by STEVE BUCCELLATO & ELECTRIC CRAYON

edited by BOB HARRAS

editor in chief TOM DEFALCO

SO HE IMPROVISES...

KRAK

A DOUBLE KICK TO THE GIRL'S GUT, SEAN?

NOT OVER-REACTING A BIT TOO MUCH, Eh?

PWISH

NOW THAT ME MOUTH IS FREE, LASS --

-- I SUPPOSE IT'D BE TOO MUCH T'HOPE YE'D WANT T'BE TALKIN' THIS OVER?

HE DIDN'T EXPECT AN ANSWER --

-- AND HE DOESN'T GET ONE.

NOT VERBALLY, AT ANY RATE.

BUT HER EXPRESSION SPEAKS VOLUMES.

A FORMER CAPTIVE OF THE VILE MUTAGENIC PARASITE KNOWN AS EMPLATE* --

-- THIS GIRL WILL NEVER BE ENSLAVED AGAIN.

EVEN IF IT MEANS KILLING EVERY LAST STRANGER WHO THREATENS HER FREEDOM.

SHRIPP

THAT SOUND..!

WHERE'N HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?

1ST ISSUE #1 -- BOB

IT IS A SOUND HE HAS HEARD **BEFORE** -- BUT PERHAPS NEVER QUITE SO **LOUD** -- NEVER QUITE SO **FRIGHTENING.**

IT IS THE SOUND OF **HUSKING,** WHEN **PAIGE GUTHRIE** SHEDS HER HUMAN SKIN.

IN THE RECENT PAST, THOSE **METAMORPHIC TRANSMUTATIONS** HAVE CLOSELY RESEMBLED HER **ORIGINAL** FORM --

-- THAT OF A DOE-EYED BLONDE FRESH FROM HER NATIVE KENTUCKY HOME.

THIS TIME, THERE ARE **LIVES** AT STAKE.

WHOOMPH

I REALIZE I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE SOME *WITTY COMMENT* PREPARED --

-- ALL READY TO *DISTRACT* YOU WHILE I TAN YOUR HIDE SIX WAYS TILL SUNDAY...

...BUT I'M STILL *NEW* TO THIS. YOU WON'T MIND IF I *SKIP AHEAD* --

-- TO THE PART WHERE I KICK YOUR BUTT?!

SPWOASH

GUESS NOT.

HMP? THAT WAS BRIEF.

DON'T BE TURNIN' YE BACK, HUSK!

ZZZWK KT

AH DON'T KNOW WHAT MAKES ME MADDER, GAL...

...THAT YA THOUGHT AH WAS AS STUPID TO BELIEVE YOU WEREN'T PLAYIN' POSSUM --

-- OR THE FACT YOU WERE RIGHT!

FWAM

NOW THERE...

...AND STAY DOWN BEFORE YA REALLY MAKE ME MAD!

PWOSHKT

BUT IF PENANCE'S ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS --

?!

-- IT IS IMMEDIATELY CLEAR SHE IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN CONCERNED WITH HUSK'S EMOTIONAL STATE.

GRABBIN' ME WITH HER...FEET?! BUT THAT'S --

-- IMPOSSIB

SPWOSHKT

SPIPPT!

THBT!

PBHHT!

SO MAYBE "IMPOSSIBLE" IS TOO STRONG A WORD?

NOW BE A GOOD GIRL AND BACK AWAY FROM THE LASS, PENANCE...FORE'N ANYONE GETS HURT WORSE THAN THEY ARE.

BUT AS THE HORRIFIC YOUNG MUTANT ADVANCES --

...IT IS OBVIOUS SHE'S DISREGARDING BANSHEE'S WORDS.

BLAST! NOW I DON'T WANT T'BE DOING THIS --

-- BUT YE LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!

HE SIGNED ON AS HEADMASTER HERE AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS --

-- BECAUSE HE WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO HELP THIS NEXT GENERATION OF MUTANTS LEARN TO DEAL WITH THEIR ABILITIES.

WHAT BANSHEE IS LEARNING, HOWEVER --

-- IS THAT SOME OF THESE KIDS HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE THAN OTHERS...

YE TRIED T'GET YESELF KILLED IS WHAT YE DID, PAIGE!

TELL ME, MISS -- WHAT HAPPENS TO YUIR WOUNDS WHEN YE CHANGE BACK T'YUIR ORIGINAL FORM?

HONESTLY? I DON'T KNOW, SIR.

I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT TOGETHER.

Hunh...

SHE USED THE MOMENTUM OF ME OWN BLAST T'HELP HER BURROW THROUGH THE CAVERN?

WE SHOULD ALL BE SO CREATIVE.

YES, WELL -- I TRIED.

INTERLUDE

MONDO?!

THERE YOU ARE!

I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED!

SMALL ISLAND.

EVEN LITTLE NEWS IS BIG.

YOU'RE NOT BEING *HONEST* WITH YOURSELF. THE MOMENT YOU USED YOUR "*GIFT*" TO RESCUE THOSE TWO CHILDREN, YOU BECAME A HERO.

ANYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE LET THEM DIE?

-SIGH-

YOU CAN BE SO *INFURIATINGLY* LITERAL.

MY *POINT* IS, YOU COULD COME *BACK* WITH ME TO THE *STATES*, BECOME A SUPERHERO, FIGHT EVIL VILLAINS -- *MAYBE* EVEN *SAVE* THE WORLD!

HOO HOO

CORDELLA -- *THIS* IS MY WORLD.

IT IS IN NO NEED OF SAVING -- *SEE?*

IF WE'RE GOING TO BE *PARTNERS*, MONDO...

I EITHER NEED TO *LIMIT* MY HORIZONS --

-- OR *BROADEN* YOURS.

END INTERLUDE

XAVIER'S.

ALL I'M SAYING, GUYS AND GRINGAS --

-- IS YOU MIGHT WANT TO *HURRY.*

I LOST CONTACT WITH BANSHEE AND HUSK *TWO MINUTES* AGO.

THAT'S SOMETHING SHORT OF *REASSURING,* SKIN!

JUBILEE, MAYBE WE SHOULD STAY CLOSER TOGETHER UNTIL WE AT LEAST KNOW *WHERE* PENANCE IS?

GOOD IDEA, *SYNCH.*

KEEP UP.

SPLISH

SHE DOESN'T UTTER A WORD.

SHE WAITS.

WATCHES.

WISHES.

ANYONE UP FOR A *MYSTERY?*

SHOOT.

THESE READINGS PUT YOU *STANDING ON TOP* OF THEM.

THAT WAS HELPFUL... *HARDLY!*

RIGHT. ONE *BIOKINETIC LIGHT SHOW...*

PIP

POP

POP

PIP

POP

PIP

POP PIP

PIP

...AT YOUR...

...HER!

DON'T *FRIGHTEN* HER, JUBILEE. WE *MIGHT* BE ABLE TO --

-- WHAT, EV, *TALK* TO HER? BEFORE YOU *START* THOUGH, EVERETT...

KRAK

...YOU WANT AN *OPEN* CASKET, OR *CLOSED*?

LADIES' CHOICE.

LIKE, *DUDE* -- I THOUGHT YOU ONLY HAD A "*SYNCHRONISTIC AURA*", WHATEVER *THAT* MEANS!

YOUR POINT?

SO WHAT'S WITH THE *FORCE FIELD?*

MY AURA BECOMES IN *SYNCH* WITH *ANY MUTANT* POWER *AROUND* ME...

YEAH?

OUR FRIEND HERE HAS *INCREDIBLY* DENSE SKIN.

THEO-RETICALLY, THE AURA SHOULD BE *SIMILARLY IMPENE-TRABLE.*

"THEO-RETICALLY", AS IN "*MAYBE*"?

OR "*THEORETICALLY*" AS IN "*MAYBE NOT*"?

"*THEO-RETICALLY*" AS IN "*SHUT UP AND GET BEHIND ME!*"

SKRRNG

SPRINNK

SVIPKKT

I'VE *DECIDED.*

HUNH?

CLOSED CASKET.

SGINK

YOU'LL BE *FINE*, DUDE. IT'S ALMOST --

-- OVER?

um... DID I, LIKE, JUST *MISS* SOME-THING?

SHE JUST... *LEFT.*

LIKE SHE COULDN'T BE *BOTHERED* WITH *KILLING* US.

I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD... *FOLLOW* HER?

BRRUMMBLE

NO, LAD -- *I'LL* FOLLOW HER! THE TWO OF YE NEED T'TAKE *PAIGE* TO THE *INFIRMARY!*

IS SHE -- OKAY?

SHE'S IN SHOCK, SO GO -- **NOW!**

SIR, ACCORDING TO SKIN... PENANCE IS HEADING DIRECTLY TOWARDS *MONET* AND *MS. FROST.*

YOU'RE NOT *COMING?*

EV, CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY *BACK?*

NOT JUST YET...

SOMEPLACE ELSE...

um. SO, OKAY...

...I WAS THERE, RIGHT? IN THAT *FRANCE* PLACE?

YES, PETER.

GO ON.

SO, I'M READY TO "*UN-DAD*" THIS GUY...

... THEN, *um*...

...I SORTA...

...I SORTA *THIS*.

SO I SEE.

I'M SORRY, HONEST. IF I --

SLANG

MY ARMOR JUST *FELL APART*.

WENT *BOOM*.

SHUSH, CHILD.

YOU DID NOTHING *WRONG*.

THIS JUST MEANS *NANNY'S* LITTLE BOY --

-- IS GROWING UP.

THE RIVER SIDE...

SHE ZIGGED WHEN SHE SHOULD HAVE ZAGGED --

-- AND ENDED UP SMASHING RIGHT INTO M.

PP OW

IN RETROSPECT, MS. FROST -- I WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE HANDLED IT THIS WAY.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT AN AMBUSH THAT IS SO...SO... RUDE?

LIFE IS RUDE, MONET.

ADAPT.

IT'S JUST THAT... IF SHE WAS A PRISONER OF EMPLATE, AND I AM CERTAIN SHE WAS, I CAN ONLY... IMAGINE... WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE.

I DON'T THINK GATEWAY HAD THIS IN MIND WHEN HE BROUGHT HER HERE...

HE, NO *DOUBT*, WANTED US TO *HELP* PENANCE --

-- BUT WE CAN'T *DO* THAT UNLESS WE KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GIRL.

LAST TIME I TRIED TO PROBE HER THOUGHTS I GOT *NOTHING*, BUT IF I TRY AGAIN WITH AN INTENSIVE PSI-SCAN --

ARE YOU *SURE* THAT IS *WISE*?

TRUST ME, M.

I'M AN ADULT.

hmm, LET'S SEE...

?!

WHEEUGH?!

SQUOOSH

ASIDE FROM A *PSIONIC BACK-LASH* WHAT DID YOU *GLEAN* FROM THAT CONTACT?

FROM AN *ADULT PERSPECTIVE*, OF COURSE.

DON'T *GLOAT* CHILD, IT'S A SIGN OF POOR UP-BRINGING.

FOR THE RECORD, THERE WAS *NOTHING* IN HER MIND.

MORE ACCURATELY...

...NOTHING REMOTELY RECOGNIZABLE.

ABSORBED IN CONVERSATION, BOTH WOMEN ARE UNAWARE THAT THE PSIONIC CONTACT --

-- HAS AWAKENED PENANCE.

INSTINCTIVELY, SHE IS ABOUT TO LASH OUT --

-- STRICTLY A MATTER OF SURVIVAL...

...WHEN THE NIGHT EXPLODES IN A CACOPHONY!

WHAT IS HE DOING?! SHE'S GETTING AWAY!

THE SONIC BLAST SEEMS MEANT AS MORE OF A DISTRACTION THAN AN ACTUAL ASSAULT.

BANSHEE, SIR... WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

I HAD HER IN MY HANDS!

...AND THEREIN LIES THE PROBLEM.

THAT YE DID, LASS...

WHETHER SHE WANTS TO OR *NOT*...

...PENANCE'S SKIN IS CAPABLE OF SLICING THROUGH *ANYTHING*.

'TWAS ONLY LUCK YE DIDNAE LOSE A LIMB, *MONET*.

FIGHTIN' UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL IS *OUT* OF THE QUESTION. IF WE'RE GOING T'BE TAKIN' HER OUT --

-- WE HAVE TO KEEP HER ON THE RUN UNTIL WE WEAR HER DOWN.

EMINENTLY REASON-ABLE.

AND THANK YOU.

MUCH AS I'D LIKE T'GIVE THE LASS THE *BENEFIT* OF THE *DOUBT* --

-- HER MUTANT POWER SEEMS T'MAKE HER A *THREAT*, BODY AND SOUL...

"...AN' A *DEADLY* ONE, T'BOOT."

I DON'T BUY IT.

GATEWAY MIGHT BE A *SPAZ* --

Huh? OVER THERE -- IN THE *SHADOWS..?*

-- BUT HE'S THE *SAME* SPAZ THAT HOOKED *ME* UP WITH THE X-MEN.

IF HE SENT PENANCE HERE, IT MUST BE FOR A GOOD *REASON*.

THAT IS, FORMER SHADOWS...

...AS A BIZARRE LIGHT SWELLS AND SWIRLS LIKE A THING ALIVE.

WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, IT IS.

IT IS THE RAMPANT, CORUSCATING **PSIONIC ENERGY** WHICH FLOWS THROUGH THE YOUNG MAN HIS FELLOW STUDENTS HAVE NAMED **CHAMBER.**

IT IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF **JONOTHON STARSMORE** --

-- WHOSE OWN RECENT PAST HAS BEEN A **PORTRAIT** OF PAIN AND SUFFERING NOT UNLIKE THAT OF PENANCE.

-- HE UNDERSTANDS WHY, IN PART, HE **HAD** TO COME.

THAT WILL BE... QUITE **ENOUGH** OF ALL THIS... **FUSS** AND **BOTHER.**

FOR WEEKS HE DEBATED WHETHER TO ATTEND XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS HERE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

NOW, LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS SINCE HIS **ARRIVAL** --

WHILE I DON'T PROFESS... TO **KNOW** YOU, "PENANCE"...

...I BELIEVE WE ARE...*KINDRED SPIRITS*, YOU AND I.

BEING MUTANTS HAS *CLEARLY*...COST US *MORE*... THAN *ANYONE*... SHOULD HAVE TO PAY.

BUT MYSELF? I'M *TIRED* OF... RUNNING.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, LUV?

COME ON...LET'S *PROVE* TO THESE GUYS --

-- YOU DON'T WANT TO...HURT ANYBODY.

DUDE. THAT WAS, LIKE, NINETY-NINE PERCENT *RISK*.

LIFE IS RISK, LEE.

IT JUST RARELY WORKS OUT THIS WELL.

BRAVO, LAD -- YE DID IT! YE MANAGED T'REACH HER WHEN NONE OF US COULD DO IT.

WHAT'D YE *SAY* TO HER?

IT HAD NOTHING... TO DO WITH *WORDS*, SUNSHINE.

...AND EVERYTHING... TO DO WITH *TRUST*.

NOBODY... WANTS TO BE *ALONE*.

NOT EVEN WE MONSTERS.

WHAT? LIKE THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SOME MAJOR *LIFE LESSON*, OR SOMETHING?

THREE DAYS LATER...

...THE CAMPUS MED CENTER...

Bio-Sphere Parameters by Forge

Property of Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters.

TIP

THE WAY *YOU* SPELL, PROBABLY.

OUCH.

GROWING UP IN THE *'HOOD*, I USED TO DREAM THAT EVERYONE OUTSIDE OF SOUTH CENTRAL L.A WERE NICE, POLITE PEOPLE.

IN LESS THAN A *WEEK*, PAIGE, YOU'VE *SHATTERED* THAT ILLUSION.

BUT *ENOUGH* ABOUT ME...

...HOW'S THE ARM?

THE BLEEDING STOPPED.

FINALLY.

MOSTLY.

SKIN, CAN I ASK YOU A *PERSONAL* QUESTION?

SURE.

BUT DON'T MIND IF I DON'T *ANSWER* IT.

FAIR.

THE OTHER NIGHT? WHEN BANSHEE WAS *PAIRING* EVERYBODY OFF?

YOU *VOLUNTEERED* FOR MONITOR DUTY?

SI. SI. AND SI.

BE *HONEST.* YOU DID THAT BECAUSE YOU WERE *AFRAID* OF PENANCE... AFRAID YOUR SKIN MIGHT *SHRED* OR *TEAR?*

ANGELO ESPINOSA IS NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING. EVER.

NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO *TALK* OR ARE YOU GOING TO *LOSE?*

THAT DEPENDS -- YOU GOING TO *PLAY* OR ARE YOU GOING TO *CHEAT?*

CHEAT?!

IS THIS HOW YOUR MOMMA *"LEARNED YA TO TREAT VISITORS,"* COUNTRY MOUSE?

MAYBE *"SCRABBLE"* ISN'T OUR GAME, CHICA --

-- MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE... *PHYSICAL?*

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A *DREAM,* ANGELO.

SEE YOU NEXT ISSUE, FOR OUR HO-HO-HOLIDAY STORY --

-- WITH AN ENDING YOU WON'T *BELIEVE!*

GENERATION X

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS
FEB 4
X-MEN DELUXE

M~~ in trouble with the law!

Banshee in a load of trouble!

Chamber finds a butterfly!

Husk --

-- and her new mentor, the White Queen!

A disgruntled and squished Skin, Synch and Jubilee!

And -- the return of a major villain!

Whup -- a story!

She's M.

THHPT

LOOKS LIKE *TROUBLE*, PEOPLES.

This one's Skin.

The other's Synch.

An o'course there's always Jubilee.

FIGURED THAT OUT ALL BY YOURSELF, *MONET..?*

SHUSH, GIRLS.

AND SKIN, LAD, KEEP YOUR *HEAD* DOWN.

Separate, they're mutants.

Born different.

Together?

Shhhh.

They're Generation X.

Just now? Somewhere in Maine.

Snowy Maine.

WHAT'S THE *BIG SHAKES*, SEAN? IT AIN'T LIKE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR *US*, RIGHT?

NOT *LIKELY*, LASS.

BUT LET'S NOT DRAW ANY *UNNECESSARY ATTENTION* TO OURSELVES, *AYE*?

Crowds make 'em nervous.

Armed crowds especially.

See, mutants --

-- like most things other --

-- aren't much loved.

Stan Lee presents

A GENERATION X-MAS

"Between the Cracks"

A Holiday Fable created by Scott Lobdell and Chris Bachalo with inks by Mark Buckingham - hues by The Bucce and his Crayons - yuletide lettering by Starkings and his Craftsmen - Bob Harras head reindeer - Tom DeFalco Santa's favorite helper

TOP O'THE MORNIN', OFFICER.

IS THERE A PROBLEM?

LICENSE AND REGISTRATION.

CERTAINLY.

"XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS", HUH? OUTTA *MASSACHU-SETS*?

AYE. *FIELD TRIP.*

WE'RE SO *EXCITED*, OCCIFER.

WE'VE NEVER SEEN NO *MAPLE TREES* BEFORE!

'FRAID I'M GONNA HAVETA *DETOUR* YOU, MISTER CASSIDY. THE BRIDGE LEADING INTO *FAYBROOK* IS... CLOSED.

THREE MILES BACK, YA CAN TAKE *201* RIGHT ALONG THE COAST.

HAVE A *GOOD TRIP*, Y'HEAR?

THANK YE, SIR. WE WILL.

SIR, I STUDIED THE *TOPOGRAPHY* CHARTS BEFORE WE LEFT THIS MORNING.

HE WAS *LYING*.

THERE *IS* NO BRIDGE.

Uh-oh!

Someplace else...

...exactly? Faybrook, Maine.

LOT ICE C

ICE CREAM

Quiet town, but not very quiet.

ELIOT!

THIS AIN'T HELPING *NOBODY*, BOY.

NOW, C'MON DOWN AN' WE'LL *TALK* THIS *OUT!*

PRETTY SURE... I CAN... *NAIL* HIM.

YER GONNA HAVE T'DO A *LOT* BETTER THAN "*PRETTY SURE...*"

...'EFORE YA START *SHOOTIN'* INTO A *SCHOOL-HOUSE.*

'SIDES, THE MUTANT IS *PROBABLY* BULLET PROOF.

MOST OF 'EM ARE, YA KNOW?

"Most"?

I... ->HUPP<- DON'T GET IT.

WWWWHY CAN'T THEY... ->HUPP<- LEAVE US ALONE?

I JJJUST CAME HERE... ->HUPP<- BECAUSE YOU -- YOU PPPROMISED YOU'D ->HUPP<- TEACH ME.

->HUPP<- YOU WERE GOING TO... MAKE IT OKAY.

DARW

YOU WWWWERE GOING TO... ->HUPP<- TALK TO THE SCHOOL BOARD.

BUT I'M *CERTAIN* IF YOU'D LET THE *REST* OF THE *CHILDREN* GO, WE COULD--

I *TRIED*, ELIOT. SOMETIMES PEOPLE ARE JUST *TOO AFRAID* OF WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND.

POE

NO! YOU PPPROMISED. PLEASE... ->HUPP<- TEACH ME?

Another story.

Smaller within bigger.

There at Xavier's.

Exactly? *Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters*.

Psst... Gifted Youngsters equals Mutants.

BIOSPHERE

Mutants in training.

She's called Penance.

Not her name, but close enough.

For now.

Likes peace... solitude... quiet. Alone.

Correction: she's used to alone.

EXCUSE ME.

!?!

SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO *STARTLE* YER.

Y'KNOW, MOST OF ME MATES AREN'T...

...*USED TO* TO PSIONIC SPEECH.

Y'KNOW, *I'M* NOT MUCH ACCUSTOMED TO IT, *MESELF.*

I THOUGHT YER... MIGHT BE *HUNGRY.*

HMPH?

4

AH'LL BE DIPPED...

...HE *DOES* HAVE A HEART IN THERE SOME-WHERE.

EAVESDROPPING, PAIGE?

!?!

HOW POLITICALLY INCORRECT.

NOT TO MENTION *RUDE.*

AH -- AH WASN'T "*EAVESDROPPING*," MA'AM... er, MIZ FROST.

I WAS STUDYING THE GROTTO'S *SCHEMATICS,* WHEN... WHEN...

WHEN YOU STARTED *PRYING.* INADVERTENTLY, OF COURSE.

ARE YOU TRYING TO CONVINCE *ME* -- OR *YOU?*

WATER FILTERS: CONTINUOUSLY OPERATIONAL
AIR CIRCULATION: SELF GENERATING
HOLO-IMAGES: FULLY PROGRAMMABLE, REAL TIME REACTIVE.

FRANKLY, MA'AM -- YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO SHOULD BE CASTING *ASPER-SIONS.*

I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE DOING ANYTHING *WRONG.*

YOU'RE YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT, YOU KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU WANT...

...AND YOU'RE NOT AFRAID TO *RUFFLE* A FEW *FEATHERS* TO GET IT.

TRUTH? YOU REMIND ME A LOT OF *ME* WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.

HMMP? WAS THAT HER VERSION OF A *COMPLIMENT...*

...OR A *WARNING?*

BIOSPHERE

Meanwhile...

'CORDING TO MAX, ELIOT'S *PARENTS* SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE.

"*ELIOT*", HUH?

WHO WOULD NAME A MONSTER "*ELIOT*"?

I DONT THINK *THEY* SEE HIM AS A MONSTER...

I'M JUST A LITTLE *UNCLEAR*, NANNY.

IF THE KID *IS* A MUTANT...

...WHY ISN'T HE REGISTERING ON ANY OF OUR *MONITORS*?

AS I'VE EXPLAINED BEFORE, PETER --

-- SINCE WE'VE BEEN FORCED TO GO *INDEPENDENT*, WE DON'T HAVE THE *RESOURCES* ONCE AVAILABLE TO US.

AS YOU CAN TELL BY THIS TERRIBLY FUZZY TRANS-MISSION...

NOW BE A GOOD BOY, AND GET READY TO DO YOUR PART.

...I'LL MAKE YOU *PROUD* OF ME.

YOU ALWAYS *DO*, DEAR.

RIGHT AWAY, NANNY.

AND NANNY..?

dwwww.

Zzzz

zzzzz

THERE YE GO, BOYO...

zzzzzz

...SLEEP TIGHT TILL THIS IS *ALL* BEHIND US.

HOW'D YOU GET THAT *SWAT* GUY TO DOZE, SIR?

JUST A *WEE* MATTER O' FINDING THE RIGHT *FREQUENCY* WITH ME SONIC POWERS, *SYNCH.*

SOMETIMES SUBTLETY IS *KEY.*

WISH THE *COPS* FELT THAT WAY. THERE'S ENOUGH FIRE-POWER DOWN THERE TO TAKE OVER A *SMALL COUNTRY,* BANSHEE.

AND IT LOOKS AS IF IT'S UP TO *US* TO MAKE SURE NO ONE GETS HURT.

SON, I NEED YE TO USE YOUR *MUTANT AURA*... TRY TO *FOCUS* IN ON THE BOY IN THE SCHOOL --

-- HELP US FIGURE OUT *EXACTLY* WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.

I'LL *TRY,* SIR.

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE SWAT TEAM..?

NOT TO *WORRY*, EVERETT...

...WE'VE GOT THEM *COVERED*.

That Banshee! Always planning ahead!

DUDE. WHAT'S THE *HAPS*?

THE COPS GOT *MONSTER BOY* TRAPPED IN THE SCHOOL.

"*MONSTER BOY*?"

SOME MUTIE FREAK WHO TRIED TO *TRANSFER* TO OUR SCHOOL.

BUT WE *BOOTED* HIM BEFORE HE COULD, LIKE, *CONTAMINATE* THE REST OF US.

THOSE *WACKY* MUTIES.

WACKY IS *RIGHT*. THE ONE GUY WHAT *FOUGHT* FOR HIM -- MISTER *LORENZANO* --

-- IS THE ONE MONSTER BOY TOOK *HOSTAGE*.

GUESS I *SHOULD* REPORT TO BANSHEE LIKE HE SUGGESTED.

EMPHASIS ON "*SHOULD*"...

ELIOT, YOUR PARENTS ARE HERE --

-- THEY WANT TO *TALK* TO YOU.

GO... *AWAY!*

PLEASE, SON -- WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO GET *HURT!*

"ANYONE?"

THEY MEAN ANYONE ->*HUPP*<-BUT *MMME*, *DON'T* THEY?

WHY ISSS->*HUPP*<- IT ALWAYS OKAY THAT *I*...GET HURT?

LESSON ONE
THE CIVIL WA

THIS ISN'T ABOUT *YOU*, ELIOT.

YOU DIDN'T DO *ANYTHING WRONG*...BY ASKING TO BE TREATED FAIRLY.

ADMIT IT! ->*HUPPFH*<- YOU PEOPLE DON'T...*CARE* ABOUT ME!

YOU JUST DON'T *WANT* THE *PRETTY KIDS* HURT...

...'CAUSE *THAT* WOULD BE A *CRIME!*

I REALIZE I HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT MY AURA --

-- BUT SOME-THING'S... *ODD.*

DEFINE "*ODD.*"

I'M GETTING...

...SOMETHING ?

PAGE 13

...I'VE GOT HIM!

POLICE

SORT OF.

I'VE MANAGED TO PUT MY BODY IN *SYNCH* WITH THE NEAREST *UNIDENTIFIED MUTAGENIC AURA*...

...BUT IT'S *NOT* COMING FROM THE *SCHOOL HOUSE.*

DEFINE "*SORT OF*".

THEN *WHERE*, LAD?

NEAR AS I CAN *TELL*, SIR...

...DOWN *THERE!*

LICK!

ICE CREAM

ICE CREAM

LUKOWT

Incoming!

EL, PLEASE... YOU'RE RIGHT, WE *DO* HAVE TO STOP RUNNING FROM TOWN TO TOWN.

WE HAVE TO TAKE A *STAND*... BUT *NOT LIKE THIS!*

LISTEN TO HER...

HUH?!

MISTER L?!

'T'S MY H-*HEART*, EL.

'AT'S *WHY* I KNOW...

...WHAT IT *MEANS*... T'BE *DIFF'RENT*.

Basement!

peuu!

YUCCK. I'M GONNA *PUKE*.

THEN I'M GONNA KILL THIS KID.

THE CHILD IS GETTING *SCARED -- DESPERATE*.

EVERETT, WE CANNAE PUT THIS OFF *ANOTHER MOMENT*.

WHY CAN'T YOU JUST *LEAVE US ALONE!*

I JUST WANT TO *LEARN!*

I CAME... →*HUFFP*← HERE TO BE WITH MY *TTEACHER!*

LET'S HOPE THE *OTHERS* ARE PREPARED TO MOVE IN ON *MY SIGNAL* AND --

SIR ?

THE START

12 PAGES

THE END

10 PAGES

MAN, YOU *FLATSCANS* MAKE ME *SICK!*

EVERY TIME YOU MANAGE TO *CORNER* A MUTANT, YOU START *WAVING* THE BIG GUNS --

-- AND SAY YOU'RE DOING IT IN THE NAME OF *PROTECTING YOUSELVES!*

WELL, GUESS WHAT?!

NOW YOU REALLY *DO* HAVE A REASON TO BE SCARED...

...AND *THAT* REASON IS *ME* --

-- THE ORPHAN MAKER!

DON'T LET THE *ARMOR* FOOL YOU.

IT'S NEW.

"ORPHAN MAKER", eh?

YUP. SEE, I MAKE ORPHANS OUT OF *MUTANTS*...

...BY KILLING THE PARENTS WHO ARE *TOO FRIGHTENED* TO PROTECT KIDS THE WAY *NANNY* CAN!

"NANNY", eh?

SKKT SHNK

NANNY'S THE ONE WHO MADE THIS *WAY-COOL SUIT* -- WITH THE *BUILT-IN* WEAPONS!

SHE'LL TAKE CARE OF ELIOT, BECAUSE SHE'S BRAVE ENOUGH TO *LOVE* HIM!

SHE *CARES* FOR *ALL* OF US!

WE MAY HAVE MESSED UP *ROYALLY*, BUT WE LOVE OUR SON!

WHO ARE YOU TO *JUDGE* US?!

I'M *ME*, LADY.

AND YOU'RE A *MEMORY!*

"Bang"?

"Boom"?

Some BIG SOUND should be heard!

Instead, just "eeeeeeeeee!"

The Sonic Wail of the Banshee!

Ouch!

But too little?

Too late?

Too slow?

Or just right?!

CLOSER THAN I WOULD HAVE *LIKED*, SEAN!

THOSE BULLETS ARE...*BONE FRAGMENTS*?!

YOU! YOU'RE *BANSHEE*, RIGHT?!

FROM THE *X-MEN*?!

FORMERLY.

NOW HE'S WITH US -- *GENERATION X!*

WHAM

OW!

SPLOOSH

I RECOGNIZE YOU, MAKER. ACCORDING TO THE *X-FACTOR** FILES, YOU'RE A MUTANT HUNTER WHO WORKS IN TANDEM WITH A SELF-DESIGNATED *CHILD-CARE SPECIALIST*.

INTRIGUING *TEAM-UP*.

*THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED MUTANT TEAM - B.H.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, BUT --

NOT A *PROBLEM*, M.

SEE?

BLESSED SAINTS, M -- I FELT THAT IN ME *OWN* TEETH!

HOW STRONG *ARE* YE?!

APPARENTLY, *STRONG ENOUGH*.

SPKRASHKT

MUY *STUPIDO*, MUCHACHO!

WHU -- ?!

HOLA! THE NAME IS SKIN.

I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING!

RELAX.

ALL YOU'RE MISSING IS A VIEW OF ME KICKING YOUR BUTT!

THIS WAS THE ABSOLUTE LAST THING WE NEEDED!

KKKT

I ONLY HOPE THAT WHILE WE'RE DEALING WITH THIS --

"-- I CAN COUNT ON JUBILEE HAVING DISOBEYED ORDERS AND MADE HER WAY INSIDE BY NOW."

SEAN IS GONNA BE MAD, BUT HEY!

WONDER WHY IT SUDDENLY GOT SO QUIET OUT THERE?

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE SHOUTIN' AND RANTIN'?

THUMPA THUMPA

THE KIDS ?!?

OUTTA THE WAY, LADY.

THUMPA THUMPA THUMPA

"LADY"?

THAT'S A SCARY THOUGHT.

I GUESS I SHOULD WAIT FOR THE OTHERS.

YEAH.

THAT'LL HAPPEN.

PLP

ALL RIGHT, BUDDY -- REACH FOR THE ASBESTOS!

PIP

PLEASE PLEASEPLEASE PLEASEPLEASE PLEASE!

PPPOP

POP

PEP

PEP

POP

I... C-CAN'T.

I HAVE TO->HUPP<- H-HOLD ON TO MISTER L...

...ON TO MY FRIEND.

MY ONLY FRIEND... ->HUPP<- EVER.

C'MON, SIR... IT'S ANOTHERRR MUTANT... LIKE ME.

SHE'S GONNA->HUPP<- HELP US GET AWAY.

DOYLE SHERLOCK

RIGHT?

YOU... ->HUPPP<- GONNA HELP US?

PLEASE?

DUDE.

POP

LIKE, YOUR FRIEND IS DEAD.

I...I KNOW.

ALL THE EXCITEMMMENT... →HUPP←THE GUNS.. THE OTHER KIDS... →HUPP←

...WAS TOO MUCHHH ON HIS BAD HEART.

BUT... HIS HEART WAS SSSOO BIG.

BIG ENOUGH... →HUPP← TO FIGHT FOR...

...TO CARE FOR, A MUTANT... LIKE ME.

IT ISN'T FAIR...

NEVER IS, ELIOT.

NEVER IS.

JUBILEE!

THE KIDS ALL MADE IT OUTSIDE -- IS EVERY-THING...

...OKAY?

YEAH, SYNCH.

LOOK AROUND.

EVERYTHING'S PRIMO.

Well, not too primo...

SKIN -- DROP BACK!

YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH HIS ARMOR'S CONDUIT CHARG--

CARAMBA!

TELL ME SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW, CHICA!

I MAY NOT BE AS BRILLIANT AS YOU KEEP TELLING US YOU ARE, M --

-- BUT HEY, I GET BY!

OH, MAN -- THIS ROTS!

MY ARMOR'S FUSING TOGETHER... I CAN FEEL THE JOINTS FREEZING UP -- POWER'S DEPLETING!

GOOD JOB, SKIN! NOW TO PUT OURSELVES BETWIXT THE ORPHAN MAKER AND THE BOY'S PARENTS!

DON'T BOTHER, BANSHEE!

JUST LOOK AT THE TWO OF THEM --

-- THEY "ORPHANED" ELIOT YEARS AGO.

COWARDS.

SIR?

LET HIM GO, M...

LICK-A-LOT

SHUNK

LICK-A-LOT

ICE CREAM

...HE CANNAE GET TOO FAR!

SHOOM

THEN AGAIN.

Hmmm, LET THAT BE A LESSON -- NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A DESPERATE OPPONENT.

IS EVERYONE *ALL RIGHT?*

WE'RE ALL *FINE*, SIR.

EXCEPT FOR THIS *MIGRAINE* I GET *ANYTIME* I TRY TO USE THESE *STUPID* POWERS!

SPEAK FOR *YOURSELF*, SKIN. PERSONALLY, I COULD GET INTO A MAJOR *CRYIN'* JAG.

WHY IS *THAT*, JUBILEE? DIDN'T WE JUST *"WIN"*?

IF YER TALKIN' STRICTLY ABOUT BEATIN' BACK ORPHAN MAKER, *YEAH*. BUT LIKE THAT OLE *JOKE* --

--"THE *OPERATION* WAS A *SUCCESS* BUT THE *PATIENT* DIED."

THE *TEACHER* LOST HIS LIFE ON ACCOUNT OF TRYIN' TO *BE THERE* FOR THE *KID*.

SADDEST PART...? ACCORDING TO *SYNCH'S* POWER --

-- ELIOT ISN'T EVEN A *MUTANT* AT ALL. HE'S JUST... *UGLY*.

APPARENTLY HE WAS *BORN* THAT WAY.

FEARED AND *HATED*, JUST FOR BEING DIFFERENT.

A MUTANT WITHOUT ANY OF THE *BENEFITS* OF BEING *ONE* OF US?

BUT HE *IS* ONE OF US, SON -- IN THE *ONE* WAY THAT *TRULY* MATTERS.

HE'S SOMEONE WHO *FELL BETWEEN* THE *CRACKS*...

Now, before we say "The End"...

ACHEM

LEMME SEE... "M'KRAAN CRYSTAL..." BLAH BLAH BLAH... "DEATH OF XAVIER"... Hmp? THAT'S *BAD.*

GENERATION NEXT? WHAT IS THIS CRAP?

WHAT-EVER. I MUST HAVE GOT SOMEBODY *ELSE'S* "*NEXT ISSUE*" BLURB BY MISTAKE.

CRINKLE CRINKLE

I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S GONNA BE ABO

AND INTRODUCE THIS REALLY RAD TRIO OF SUPER-VILLAINESSES, WHICH I THINK WE NEED MORE OF IF YOU AS

MOND AND H

UNLESS DE IN WH O

CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

IN THE "AGE OF APOCALYPSE" EVENT, THE TIME-TRAVELING LEGION ACCIDENTALLY KILLED PROFESSOR X IN THE PAST, CREATING A DYSTOPIAN NEW TIMELINE WHERE APOCALYPSE CONQUERED NORTH AMERICA. THIS TIMELINE'S RAGTAG X-MEN EVENTUALLY LEARNED THE TRUTH, TRAVELED BACK IN TIME AGAIN AND SAVED XAVIER'S LIFE, RESTORING THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. BUT A HANDFUL OF "AGE OF APOCALYPSE" NATIVES, INCLUDING A SADISTIC ALTERNATE BEAST, WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE'S PAST.

X-MEN PRIME, PUBLISHED RIGHT AFTER THE "AGE OF APOCALYPSE" EVENT CONCLUDED, INTRODUCED NEW PLOTLINES FOR EACH OF THE X-BOOKS — INCLUDING *GENERATION X* — IN A SERIES OF VIGNETTES...

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AT THAT MOMENT...

...IN A LONG-DRIED DRAINAGE PIPE IN THE SHADOW OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE...

...JIM DAVIS IS ABOUT TO DIE THE SAME WAY HE HAS LIVED THE PAST TEN YEARS OF HIS LIFE.

TIRED.

HUNGRY.

ALONE.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS THIS WAY, OF COURSE.

ONCE UPON A TIME, HE HAD A HOME.

A FAMILY.

AND, UNFORTUNATELY, A DRUG ADDICTION.

HE'S NOT THINKING OF ANY OF THAT, HOWEVER, AS HE TRIES TO STARE INTO THE LIGHT THAT HAS CAUGHT HIS ATTENTION...

...THE BRILLIANT LIGHT THAT HAS DRAWN HIM HERE, TO THE TUNNELS BENEATH MANHATTAN.

NO, THE FINAL THOUGHT WHICH RACES THROUGH HIS HEAD...

...IS GRATITUDE.

IT IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHT HE'S EVER SEEN.

IT'S ALSO THE LAST.

THP

THP

THP

STUPID GENESCUM.

LIKE EVERY OTHER. Y' LOVE TO PRY.

ACCCORDING TO THE *OLD WORDS*, THE *CEREMONY OF LIGHT* IS STRICTLY *HUSH-HUSH.*

GENE-SPECIFIC AUDIENCE. INVITATION *ONLY.*

"NO HUMANS ALLOWED."

I'M ASSUMING SINCE THIS ONE IS DEAD -- HE IS THE *EXCEPTION.*

WHEN SHE LAST CALLED THIS DIMENSION HOME, HER NAME WAS SARAH.

SHE WAS A CHILD THEN.

TO THE WOMAN NAMED MARROW THAT NIGHT WAS OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO.

EVERY-THING IS *ALMOST* READY.

AFTER MUCH TIME LIVING *BELOW*... THE *FIRST AMONG US* WILL BE CALLED.

A *SINGLE* CANDLE WILL LIGHT HIS WAY.

AND *WE* -- THE COLONY ONCE *NAMED* "MORLOCKS"...

... WILL NEVER *SUP* NOR *SLEEP* NOR *SCURRY* IN DARKNESS *AGAIN!*

HER LAST MEMORY OF THESE DANK, DARK TUNNELS -- ONCE HER SANCTUARY -- IS A SEARCH FOR HER FELLOW MORLOCKS...

...AN ENCOUNTER WITH THREE OTHERS WHO WERE LIKE HER...

...BUT WHO LIVED ABOVE, AMONG THE HUMANS.

SHE RAN INTO CABLE, DOMINO AND CALIBAN IN CABLE – Bob

AT THAT MOMENT, SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND...

KNOKKNOKKNOKKNOKKNOK

NO NEED TO *POUND* ON THE DOOR!

WHY NOT SIMPLY...

...USE ...THE...

...CHIMES?

MY APOLOGIES.

I'M HERE TO SEE A LADY GAYLE EDGERTON.

YES, WELL...

...I'M AFRAID SHE IS NOT *HOME* THIS EVENING. I'LL INFORM HER YOU STOPPED --

LOOK, NILES... I KNOW SHE'S HERE.

YOU KNOW SHE'S HERE.

AND YOU KNOW THAT I KNOW SHE'S HERE.

I AM GOING TO SEE HER -- WHETHER YOU'RE DEAD OR ALIVE.

GENTLEMAN'S CHOICE.

WHAT'LL IT BE?

RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR.

MISS *GAYLE*, THERE IS A MISTER..?

EMPLATE.

A Mr. EMPLATE TO SEE YOU.

THANK YOU, NILES. THAT WILL BE ALL.

AREN'T YOU THE £OOL ONE? YOU DON'T LOOK AT ALL SURPRISED TO SEE ME.

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S *HAPPENED* TO ME IN THE PAST FEW *MONTHS* --

-- I FEEL I'M PREPARED FOR ANYTHING!

SCHHUNK

HEE HEE HEE HEEE

Y-YOU'RE... LAUGHING?

IT TICKLES.

NOW, IF YOU'VE DISPENSED WITH THE MELODRAMA, PERHAPS WE £AN DISCUSS WHAT IT IS I £AME HERE TO TALK ABOUT?

IT SEEMS YOU AND I HAVE A MUTUAL "FRIEND".

JONOTHON STARSMORE... £URRENTLY KNOWN IN THE STATES AS A YOUNG MUTANT NAMED £HAMBER.

THE TUNNELS...

SHE HAS CHANTED THE WORDS AGAIN AND AGAIN --

-- UNTIL THE POINT COMES WHEN SHE NO LONGER RECOGNIZES THEM.

THEY'RE JUST SOUNDS.

ECHOES OF A BROKEN FAITH.

WITH ALL MY HEART, I *CALLED* TO YOU...

... BUT YOU *DID NOT* COME.

TSST

THE *LIGHT*, CHILD.

AFTER SO *LONG* A TIME... IT *HURTS* MY EYES.

YOU !?!

THE *OLD WORDS* WERE TRUE, *THEN*?! YOU *COME* TO US IN OUR *DARKLY HOUR* -- TO *RECLAIM* YOUR *ATOM CHILDREN.*

"CHILDREN"?

I ONLY SEE *ONE.*

THERE ARE *OTHERS*, FIRST ONE -- *YOUNG*, LIKE ME!

TIRED OF *HIDING!*

HIDING?

TELL ME... WHY WOULD A CREATURE AS *BEAUTIFUL* -- AS *EXQUISITELY UNIQUE* AS YOURSELF -- WANT TO *HIDE?*

AT A *GLANCE*, I CAN TELL YOU ARE A *LOVELY PIECE* OF WORK.

SPECIFICALLY, YOU'RE MY WORK.

ONE OR TWO GENERATION *REMOVED, TRUE* -- BUT MY WORK *NONETHELESS.*

TO BE *HONEST*, YOUR ANCESTORS -- THE "*MORLOCKS*" -- PROVED TO BE *SOMEWHAT* OF A *DISAPPOINT-MENT.*

WITH THE *EXCEPTION* OF *CALLISTO*, OF COURSE.

BUT I TRUST *YOU* AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE SO MUCH *MORE* TO *OFFER* YOUR CREATOR?

HALF-TWELVE OF US... *WAITING* TO *IGNITE* THE *UPWORLD* ABOVE. FRY OUT THE *HUMANS!*

JUST *WAITING* FOR THE FIRST ONE'S WORDS...

FOR ONLY THE SECOND TIME SINCE HE HAS COME TO THIS STRANGE WORLD, NEARLY TWO DECADES AGO...

... HENRY MCCOY -- ONCE CALLED THE BEAST --

-- IS HAPPY.

MARVEL
COMICS
JULY
X-MEN
DELUXE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GENERATION X
M
SKIN
SYNCH
STARKINGS
BUCCELLATO
BIG TIME IN THE BIG APPLE
LOBDELL
BACHALO
5

Stan Lee RE-PRESENTS GENERATION X IN

DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!

A Scott Lobdell AND Chris Bachalo CREATION

Mark Buckingham INKER

Richard Starkings AND Comicraft TITLES

Steve Buccellato AND Electric Crayon "ELECTRICOLOR"

Bob Harras CHANGING CHANNELS

THE BASEMENT OF THE BOYS' DORM...

...AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...

...NESTLED SOMEWHERE AMID THE BERKSHIRE MOUNTAINS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

ROT.

ZONIN' OUT IN FRONT OF THE GOGGLE BOX IS ONE OF THE FEW NORMAL THINGS LEFT FER ME T'DO --

-- AND NOW SOMEONE'S MANAGED T'TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME, TOO?

HE SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME DOWN HERE.

IT'S COLD.

DANK.

AND HAS A NATURAL "DO NOT DISTURB" QUALITY ABOUT IT.

FOR THE MOST PART, THE OTHER RESIDENTS OF THIS CAMPUS RESPECT CHAMBER'S RIGHT TO PRIVACY.

FOR THE MOST PART.

GATEWAY?

QUITE THE ENTRANCE, 'EY?

Y'KNOW -- BRAVO.

GATEWAY BEING THE EXCEPTION.

AS ALWAYS --

-- HE COMES AND GOES AS HE PLEASES.

BUT I DON'T IMPRESS AS EASILY AS THE OTHERS, SUNBEAM.

SO IF YER HAVE SOMETHIN' TO SAY, SAY IT...

...OR NAFF OFF.

CLIK

LADY MET THIS FELLOW

CLIK

MELTS IN YOUR

CLIK

HEH HEH...

LED ZEP

SUIT YER-SELF.

URK!

COOL.

PAIGE NOT LEARNED WELL OF "LEGACY VIRUS."

NEEDS TALK... FRIENDSHIP PERHAPS?

PROBABLY.

SO WHAT'S YER POINT?

PAIN, DISILLUSIONMENT AND YOU...

... "BUDDIES."

PAIGE NEW TO THIS, NO?

WAFERS

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, YES?

-SIGH-

THIS SIDE UP

Oh, BEAST!

CLIK

NEW YORK CITY.

THE BIG APPLE...

FF

... WHERE JONOTHON'S TEAMMATES, THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF GENERATION X HAVE EMBARKED ON A QUITE UNUSUAL FIELD TRIP.

5¢

HOW MUCH, MISTER?

Y'SAY IT'S FER YER FRIEND?

BIG APPLE

FERGIT IT, KID -- DIS ONE'S ON Y'UNCLE CLIFF!

DON' FERGIT T'TELL 'ER DAT DERE IS A *GENUINE* MANHATTAN RED DELICIOUS -- GOT IT?

OH -- 'N' HAVEANICE DAY.

I WILL, AND *THANK* YOU.

GUYS, *CHECK* IT OUT! *PENANCE* IS GONNA GO LUNAR -- SHE *LOVES* APPLES.

RIGHT. I'M SURE SHE'LL *HOP* RIGHT OUT OF BED AND START SINGING *KUMBAYA*.

IGNORE ANGE'S SARCASM, JUBILEE -- I THINK IT WAS VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU.

ME, TOO, EV. ME, TOO!

THE BIG APPLE

E BiG APPLE

COMIN' THROUGH!

WHAM

HEY -- WATCH IT!

SORRY, *TOOTS.* IF YA SEE A MOB O' *ADORIN'* FANS... *COVER* FOR ME, Huh?

COVER *YERSELF*, YA ORANGE-BRICKED LOSER!

THBMP

WOW -- THAT WAS *BENJAMIN J. GRIMM*, THE THING!

YEAH. *KINDA.*

BIG AND DEAL.

AT LEAST MY APPLE IS *STILL* --

ALE

LOOK -- IT'S HIM!

?!

I LOVE THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

FF *RULES!*

SIGN MY HEAD!

YOAH, THING!

FF

THUMPATHUMPATHUMPA

YO

C'MON, *MONET* -- WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE MEETING Ms. *FROST.*

¿YO, CHICA?

EARTH TO *SEÑORITA ST. CROIX.*

¿HOLA?

SHE'S LIKE SHE WAS WHEN THE PHALANX KIDNAPPED US -- ⊗

LET *ME* TRY.

YER AN ARROGANT LITTLE RICH GIRL IN NEED OF A MAJOR 'TUDE ADJUSTMENT 'CAUSE YA THINK YER SO MUCH BETTER THAN THE REST OF US.

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO *THAT*, M?

OOBOY, WE'RE IN TROUBLE!

C'MON, SKIN, SYNCH -- PUSH *HARDER* ALREADY!

AS *NEAR* AS WE KNOW, M'S *MUTANT POWER* MAKES HER *PRACTICALLY INVULNERABLE.*

IF SHE DOESN'T *WANT* TO MOVE, IT *AIN'T GOING* TO *HAPPEN!*

I TEND TO ~~*ERRNT*~~ *AGREE* WITH *ESPINOSA,* JUBILEE.

I DOUBT THE X-MEN *THEMSELVES* COULD *BUDGE* HER IN *THIS STATE.*

BACK IN UNCANNY X-MEN #316 317 -BOB

ANY IDEAS?
I CAN GO *BUY* A *SLEDGE HAMMER* FROM THE HARDWA--
ANGELO?! ANGELO ESPINOSA?!
FRIEND OF YOURS?
BUDDY.
MAN, WHEN YOU JUST *UP* AND *DISAPPEARED*, WORD IN *L.A* WAS YOU WERE *ICED.*
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE *ALIVE.* IT'S A *MIRACLE,* DUDE!
A *"HARD COPY"/ "INSIDE EDITION"* MIRACLE!
WHY HAVE YOUMMMM?!
POINK
SHUSH, *AMIGO.*
EVERETT, JUBILEE -- YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME FOR A MOMENT, *POR FAVOR?*
WHATEVER, JUST *HURRY BACK.*
FROST ENTERPRISES IS THIRTY BLOCKS AWAY --
-- AND WE'RE *ALREADY* LATE.
SO, EVERETT -- *WHERE* WERE WE?
SLAM
FEEL HOW *UNCOMFORTABLE* THAT IS, *AMIGO?*
IT'LL FEEL A *LOT WORSE* IF I PACK *EVERY* SQUARE INCH OF YOUR BODY WITH MY *SKIN.* *¿COMPRENDES?*
AS FAR AS ANYBODY *KNOWS,* I'M *STILL DEAD.*
ESPECIALLY *TORRE.*
YOU GOT A *PROBLEM* WITH THAT?
GREAT.
LET'S DO THIS *AGAIN* SOME-TIME, *NO?*
¡CALLATE!
AGK!
UNN UH!

BACK AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...

... SPECIFICALLY, THE INTERACTIVE BIO-SPHERE TRAINING FACILITY...

... KNOWN AFFECTIONATELY TO THE STUDENTS AS, THE DANGER GROTTO...

LET'S SEE, NOW, LASS --

-- WHY DON'T WE TRY FRENCH?

HIS NAME IS SEAN CASSIDY.

HE'S CALLED BANSHEE.

BESIDES BEING A MUTANT WITH A SONIC SCREAM CAPABLE OF SPLITTING STEEL --

-- OVER THE COURSE OF HIS LIFE, HE'S BEEN A COP...

... AN INTERPOL AGENT...

... AN X-MAN...

... AND NOW, AN INSTRUCTOR...

BONJOUR, MADAME.

JE M'APPELLE SEAN.

COMMENT T'APPELLE?

ANYTHING?

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A *NAE*, PENANCE.

THE NAME WAS GIVEN HER BY GATEWAY --

-- WHEN HER BATTERED AND BROKEN BODY WAS DROPPED ON THEIR FRONT LAWN.

SHE HASN'T SPOKEN A WORD SINCE HER ARRIVAL.

SURELY, LASS -- YE MUST SPEAK *SOME* LANGUAGE OR *'NOTHER?*

WELL, 'TIS *ALL* THE TIME I HAVE FOR *TODAY.*

I'LL BE BACK AGAIN TOMORROW T'TRY OUT THE REST O' ME ADMITTEDLY *LIMITED LANGUAGE* SKILLS.

PERHAPS I'LL TRY SWAHILI?

YE WERE AT THAT FOR *HOURS*, SEAN -- BUT BE *HONEST*.

... HOW MUCH WAS IT A NEED T'*BREAK THROUGH* TO THE WEE GIRL...

... AND HOW MUCH WAS ABOUT TRYIN' T'*AVOID* TALKIN' T'*MOIRA*?

JUST *YESTERDAY*, THE WORLD -- AN' *ME* -- LEARNED MY LADY LOVE HAD THE *LEGACY VIRUS* ⊗...

SEE X-MEN PRIME -BOB

... THE DISEASE THAT THREATENS TO WIPE OUT EV'RY MUTANT ON TH' FACE O' TH' GLOBE...

... YET I *CANNAE* BRING MESELF TO --

EH?

SOMEONE'S IN ME *PRIVATE COTTAGE*.

KLK

I'LL BE..!

CONSIDERIN' *THE FIRST NIGHT* YE WERE HERE, YE NEARLY *KILLED* THE LOT OF US, YE WERE SO *FRIGHTENED*...

... I'D SAY WE'RE *MAKING PROGRESS*.

HOW 'BOUT WE *CELEBRATE*, LUV?

AMANA

THIS SIDE

SEAN

CHOCOLATE MILK FOR TERRY.

SEAN

NYC.

RELAX, KIDS.

MUNCH

IT'S CALLED "IMPROVISING."

MUNCH

PARK

WE USED TO DO IT *ALL* THE *TIME* IN THE X-MEN.

MUNCH

M'LL BE FINE. *TRUST* ME.

MUNCH

APPLE?

JUBILEE, WE LEFT HER IN THE *MIDDLE* OF ROCKEFELLER PLAZA... IN A CATATONIC STATE.

TRUE, WE WEREN'T ABLE TO *REACH* THE WHITE QUEEN BY *TELEPHONE*, BUT --

MORE *IMPORTANTLY*, IF I HEAR *ONE MORE* "X-MEN" *REFERENCE*...

C'MON *DUDE* AND *DUDE*... WE'RE PULLIN' INTO THE *BASEMENT* OF FROST ENTERPRISES *RIGHT NOW.*

WE'LL GRAB THE WHITE QUEEN AND BE *BACK* BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES MONET.

BANSHEE *DID* SAY WE SHOULD STAY TOGETH --!

FBUMP

WHAT WAS *THAT?!*

DRIVER? *DRIVER?!*

GUYS, *NO ONE* IS *ANSWERIN'!*

ONE YARD OF *DISTENDED* SKIN COMIN' *UP* -- AND I'M ON IT, JUBILEE.

THWAK

CHINK

¡MADRE DE DIOS..!

NO EXIT

I THINK I'VE FOUND THE PROBLEM.

NO EXIT

MISS FROST

MAN oh MAN ALMIGHTY...

... I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK.

Oh... GOD.

SOME... *THING*... *KILLED* THESE SECURITY GUARDS --

-- AND *PEGGED* 'EM TO THE WALL.

LIKE... SOME KIND OF... *WARNING?*

SINCE FIRST GETTIN' MUTANT POWERS, I THOUGHT I'D SEEN *EVERYTHING* THERE WAS TO SEE.

BUT *THIS..?*

NO TIME TO WASTE, JUBE.

SUIT UP.

THMP

HEY!

LET'S *ASSUME* THAT WHOEVER DID THIS IS AFTER Ms. FROST.

OR *WHATEVER* IT IS SHE CAME TO NEW YORK TO *PICK UP.*

WHICH PLACES *US* IN THE POSITION OF *CAVALRY.*

NO.

I *FORBID* YOU...

¡¿QUE?!

Ms. FROST --!

DON'T WORRY... ABOUT... *ME.*

GET... *BANSHEE*... X-MEN... HELP.

GO... GET... HELP...

LEAVE... ME...

AT LEAST SHE'S ALIVE *AND* STILL ABLE TO USE HER PSI-POWER...

X-MEN 2099

MS. GUTHRIE... MA'AM?

AH'M... *AFRAID* AH HAVE SOME... **BAD** NEWS FOR YUH.

JUSH... TURNS OUT THERE'S THIS HERE... →HIC← "*LEGACY VIRUS*" DISEASE-THING... WHAT ***KILLS*** MUTANTS.

NO... THIN' ***PERSONAL.***

SEEMS WE'RE GONNA HAVE T'... ***CANCEL*** YO' LIFE ON ACCOUNT... O' YA BEIN' A... ***MUTANT*** AN' ALL.

MOSTLY MUTANTS.

SCOOP... IPZO ***FACTOID!*** PLEASH TAKE YO' AND COAT ***HAT*** AND ***DON'T*** →HIC← LET THE ***PEARLY GATES*** ***HIT*** YA ON THE WAY IN!

THEN LIFE GOT IN THE WAY.

-- ***PAIGE GUTHRIE HAD EVERY INTENTION OF BECOMING A PRIZE STUDENT.***

UPON ENROLLMENT HERE AT THIS PRIVATE ACADEMY --

X-HAVEN'S SCHOOL...

HOW MANY BEERS 'AVE YER 'AD?

COUNTIN' THIS ONE?!

YEP.

COUNTIN' THAT ONE.

ONE!

HEE HEE!

WHA'S THE POINT OF IT ALL, JON'THIN?

WHA'S THE POINT O' STUDYIN' AND PRACTICIN' AND LEARNIN' AND TRYIN' AND FIGHTIN' AND USIN' OUR POWERS...

... IF...

... IF...

... IF ONE DAY WE ALL JUST GONNA WAKE UP DEAD CAUSE O'SOME DUMB DISEASE?!

WHY BOTHER IF WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE ANYWAY?

PSST. CAN AH TELL YA A SECRET?

GOWON.

LIFE IS UNFAIR.

WITH A CAPITAL "UN".

TELL ME ABOUT IT, PAIGE.

FROST ENTERPRISES...

THIS IS *REALLY* STUPID.

I THOUGHT WE ALL AGREED TO *CONTACT* THE *X-MEN* *AFTER* WE FIND Ms. FROST..?

WE *DID.*

DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE NOT BEING *STUPID.*

STUPID WOULD BE LEAVIN' *ANYBODY* HERE, KNOWING THEY'RE *STILL ALIVE.*

I'VE SEEN A *LOT* O' THINGS HANGING WITH WOLVERINE... B-BUT DEAD BODIES ARE SOMETHING YA *NEVER* GET USED TO. NEVER.

THE PENTHOUSE...

come.

TRUST ME, *CHICA.* YOU CAN GET USED TO *ANYTHING.*

close.

I DON'T LIKE IT.

NOBODY *"LIKES"* IT, SYNCH.

NO. I MEAN THE *ELEVATOR.*

closer.

AFTER WHAT THEY *DID* IN THE GARAGE...

...WHY LEAVE *POWER* IN THE ELEVATOR?

here.

ping

IN THE NAME OF GENE NATION...

...DIE AND DIE AND DIE AGAIN!

HE IS NAMED HEMINGWAY.

IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE --

-- HE WOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED A MORLOCK.

HERE AND NOW --

-- HE IS A GENETIC NIGHTMARE MADE REAL.

I SMELLED THEM AT TWENTY FLOORS!

BUT -- THIS CAR IS EMPTY?!

SEZ YOU.

?!

BOO.

MY OWN KIND?! I WAS EXPECTING HUMANS!

WE'RE GENERATION X

... WE DON'T *HAVE* A KIND!

YEARS FROM NOW, EVERETT THOMAS AND JUBILATION LEE --

-- ASSUMING THAT THEY LIVE THAT LONG --

-- MAY DEVELOP INTO TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS ON THE PLANET.

SYNCH, WITH HIS BIO-SYMPATHIC AURA CAPABLE OF TWISTING AND CHANNELING ANY NEARBY MUTANT POWER...

... AND JUBILEE, WITH HER ABILITY TO GENERATE SPONTANEOUS PYROKINETICS OUT OF THIN AIR.

YEARS FROM NOW.

FOR TODAY, HOWEVER --

-- THEIR CURRENT POWER LEVELS SUFFICE.

SLAM

C'MON, GUYS, WHILE UGLY'S STILL REELIN' --

-- IT'S TIME TO *TRASH* THE *TRASH!*

J -- WAIT!

YOU WAIT!

ME? I DON'T CARE *WHY* HE DID --

-- *WHAT* HE DID TO *WHO* HE DID!

HE *KILLED* THE DRIVER AND THE GUARDS, AND FOR *THAT* --

-- HE *CAN EAT MY* SPARKS!

BWAP

Be away!

OR...

...I COULD "BE AWAY."

GUYS?

HELP WOULD BE COOL.

KRASH

FWWP

TWWP

BAM

TELL ME, CHICA... DID THE BEAST EVER SAVE YOU LIKE THAT?

NOT EXACTLY LIKE THAT, NO.

YOU ARE LIKE THE ONES IN THE HOT PLACE.

SMALLER, BUT LIKE THE OLDERS. "DO NOT KILL! DO NOT HAVE FUN!"

"HEMINGWAY IS BAD TO ENJOY STOPLIFE OF HUMANS!"

SAME WORDS FOR YOU AS FOR THEM: HEMINGWAY AND FRIENDS LEFT HOT PLACE TO DO AS WE LIKE!

NOW WITH THE LEECH -- NO ONE CAN SHOUT AT US!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE LEECH IS -- AND JUST NOW I DON'T CARE!

BUT IF YOU'RE LEAVING --

CONCENTRATING HIS AURA ON THE LARGER MAN'S PHYSICAL MUTATION...

... SYNCH LASHES OUT.

-- YOU'RE LEAVING THE *HARD WAY!*

WHO HERE *HONESTLY* BELIEVES A THIRTY-PLUS FLOOR DROP DOWN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT *SQUISHED* THIS GUY?

NOBODY.

WE GOING *AFTER* HEMINGWAY, OR WHAT?

BEING *WITHOUT* A *CLUE* AS TO *WHAT* THE WHITE QUEEN WAS PICKING UP HERE IN THE *FIRST PLACE*... I DON'T THINK WE GOT *MUCH* OF A *CHOICE.*

KIDS.

MUTANTS LIKE US.

ONLY *YOUNGER.*

Oh?

YEAH, *CHICA*... Oh.

LOOK AT THIS KID -- HE'S *PETRIFIED.*

IF HE WAS *PART* OF HEMINGWAY'S POSSE, HE'D HAVE MORE *KICK.*

LOOKS TO ME LIKE THE WHITE QUEEN DRAGGED US ALONG TO PICK UP THIS KID AND SOMEBODY CALLED *"THE LEECH"* -- BUT THE BIG GUY AND COMPANY GOT HERE *FIRST.*

IS *THAT* WHAT HAPPENED, LITTLE DUDE?

THEY TOOK YOUR *FRIEND* AND LEFT *YOU* BEHIND?

DON'T WORRY, KID...

...YOU'RE *SAFE* NOW.

SO, ANY IDEA *WHERE* UGLY TOOK OUR FRIENDS?

COOL.

HEY, *EITHER* OF YOU GUYS ANY GOOD AT *INTERPRETING* PSIONIC HOLO-GRAMS?

NEXT ISSUE:

Y'ALL COME BACK NOW, YA HEAR?

THE KISS *ALONE* OUGHT TO BE WORTH THE $1.95!

MARVEL COMICS
AUGUST
X-MEN
DELUXE

GENERATION X

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TM

6

Stan Lee Presents GenerationX in

Notes From The UNDERGROUND

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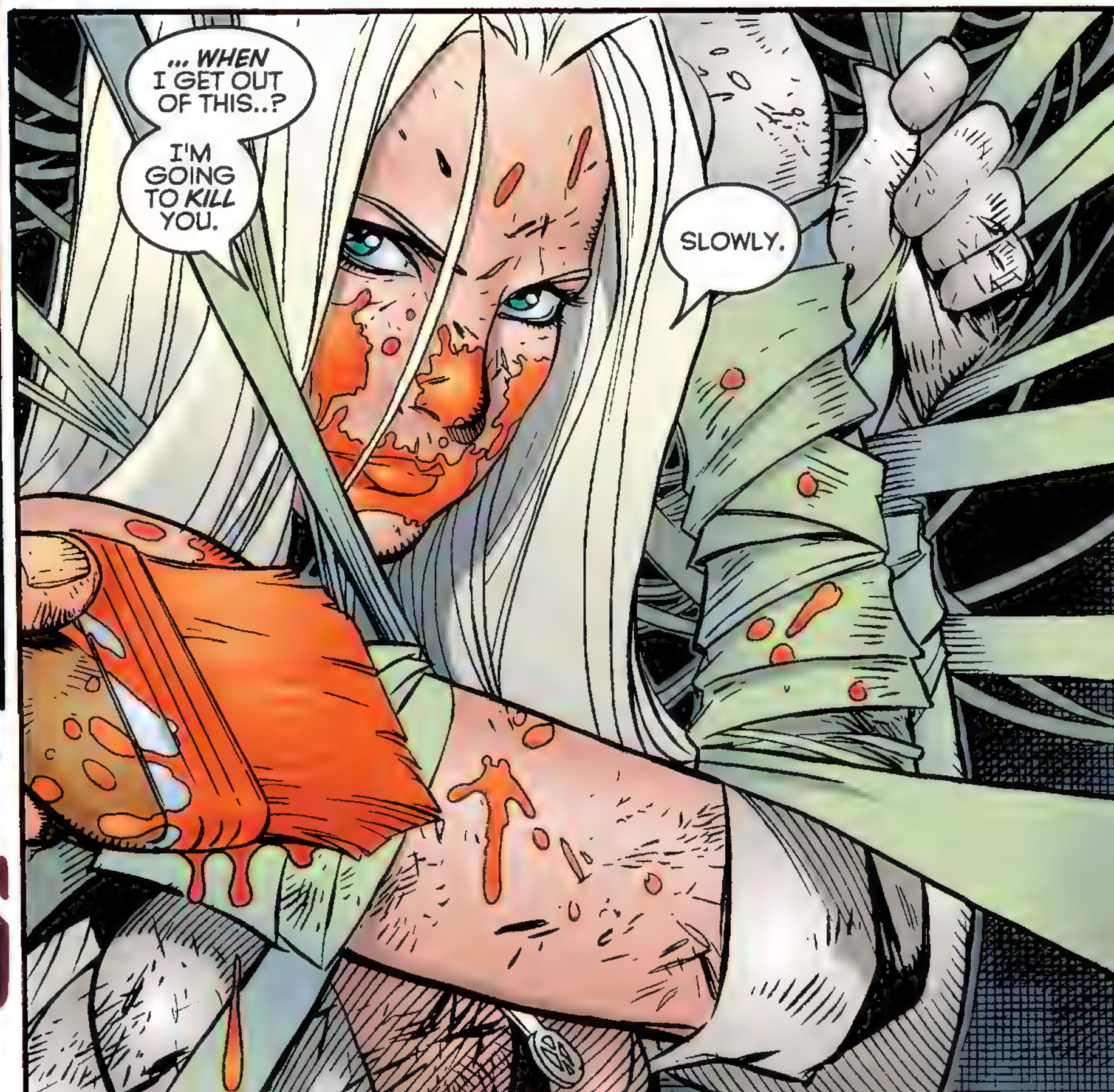

SAYING WORDS FOR MYSELF AND *HEMINGWAY* -- WE CERTAINLY HOPE YOU *TRY!*

EVEN IN *OUR DIMENSION*, WE HEARD LEGEND-WHISPERS OF "*EMMA FROST -- WHITE QUEEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB!*"

DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH UP CLOSE, MARROW.

KIND OF... SOFT AND SQUISHY LOOKING.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD ARGUE THOSE ARE *TWO* OF MY *BEST* CHARACTERISTICS, HEMINGWAY.

SORRY IF I'M NOT LIVING UP TO YOUR *EXPECTATIONS*, THOUGH.

I'M *JUST* A TEACHER NOW, OF YOUNG MUTANTS.

THAT'S WHY I WAS IN NEW YORK AT ALL -- -- TO ENROLL YOUR CAPTIVE FRIEND, *LEECH*, AT MY *PRIVATE ACADEMY*.

TELL YOU WHAT -- LET ME AND THE KID GO..?

YOU GET THE *FIRST SEMESTER FREE*.

YOU COULD BOTH STAND FOR A CLASS IN "*INTRODUCTORY GRAMMAR AND PERSONAL HYGIENE*."

LAST ISSUE -BOB

DON'T TREAT US *STUPID-LIKE*, FROST.

YOU'RE ONLY *STILL* ALIVE AS A NICENESS TO *FIRST ONE*.

CLEAR?

CRYSTAL.

EVEN WITH THE LITTLE KID LEECHING MY *PSIONIC POWERS*.

GOOD. NOW TRY NOT TO *BOTHER ME* UNTIL FIRST ONE ARRIVES.

OR...

MEANWHILE...

... SKIN -- ONE OF EMMA FROST'S MUTANT CHARGES IN GENERATION X -- IS HAVING PROBLEMS OF HIS OWN.

DO YOU *MIND*, AMIGO?

(GRANTED, IT'S A RELATIVELY MINOR PROBLEM IN COMPARISON...)

KICK BACK, SKIN.

IT'S CLEAR "*PINKY*" LIKES YOU, LOTS!

JUBILEE... I *HATE* KIDS.

NO?

REALLY?

I AM *SHOCKED*.

CAPITAL "*SH*".

SHHH.

I'M CONCENTRATING... USING MY SYNCHRONISTIC AURA IN A WAY I'VE NEVER *TRIED BEFORE*.

HOW'S *THAT*, SYNCH?

WE KNOW THAT HEMINGWAY WENT *UNDERGROUND* AFTER HIS ASSAULT ON *FROST ENTERPRISES*, JUBILEE...

... WHERE HE AND ANOTHER MUTANT *KIDNAPPED* Ms. FROST AND SOMEONE CALLED "*LEECH*."

WE ALSO KNOW ALL THE MAJOR PLAYERS SEEM TO BE MUTANTS.

YOU THINKING YOUR *AURA* MIGHT BE ABLE TO *HOME IN* ON THEM, ASSUMING THEY'RE STILL TOGETHER?

NOT *TOO DESPERATE*, eh, EVERETT?

MAYBE, ANGELO. BUT WE ALL AGREED WE COULDN'T *WAIT* FOR THE X-MEN TO RESPOND TO OUR CALL FOR HELP.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS.

CORRECTO-MUNDO.

THAT'S *WHY* WE SHOULDN'T BE *WASTIN'* OUR TIME...

...ON...

ZNO

...CHASIN'...

YOU WERE SAYIN'?

I WAS SAYING "FOLLOW THAT RAINBOW."

I HAVE TO KEEP CLOSE, GANG! I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH *RANGE* THE AURA HAS!

TRY TO *KEEP UP* THE *BEST* YOU CAN.

"TRY TO KEEP UP," eh?

HERE I THOUGHT *GEN X*ERS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE *SLACKERS.*

AND AT LEAST *ONE* BABYSITTER, APPARENTLY.

BETWEEN *M*, AND *SYNCH*, AND *HUSK*...

...SEEMS LIKE WE GOT A *TEAM O' LEADERS.*

DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WANT TO --

NOPE.

XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

MASSACHUSETTS.

HOME AND PRIVATE ACADEMY OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUTANTS --

-- TEENAGERS WITH GENETIC QUIRKS --

-- MAKING THEIR WAY IN A WORLD TOO BUSY HATING THEM TO UNDER-STAND THEM.

BRRAPPT

CASE YA HAVEN'T NOTICED YERSELF, LUV...

... DRINKING AWAY YER PROBLEMS IS NO WAY TO SOLVE 'EM.

FINE. CAN WE SAVE THE LECTURES, JONO...

... TILL AFTER THE ROOM STOPS SPINNING?

THWAP

FINE.

BETTER FROM ME, PAIGE, THAN FROM SEAN OR EMMA.

NOT GONNA TELL 'EM... ARE YA?

PROB'LY NOT.

WHICH ONE IS YER ROOM?

AFTER YER SLEEP IT OFF, WE CAN TALK ABOUT WHY YER SO UPSET ABOUT THE LEGACY VIRUS.

WHU --?!

THIS IS YER ROOM?!

YEAH.

SO?

IT'S JUST -- YA ALWAYS SEEM SO... "FOCUSED"?

I'M SURPRISED IT'S...

...A MESS?

YER WOULD 'AVE TO STRAIGHTEN UP TO EARN A MESS.

MAYBE IF YER SPENT LESS TIME STUDYING..?

Eh?

MAYBE, JONOTHON, AH JUST AIN'T FOUND SOMETHIN' MORE *INTERESTING* THAN STUDYING.

YET.

PAIGE, YER DRUNK.

AM I, JONO?

SEVERAL FLIGHTS UNDERGROUND... MIDTOWN.

WHY DID YOU KILL THEM?

WHICH "THEM"?

THE PEOPLE IN THE *DISCO.* ⊗ BEFORE LEECH *CANCELLED* MY PSI-POWERS, I SAW THE *SLAUGHTER* IN YOUR MINDS.

BECAUSE THEY WERE *HUMAN.*

BECAUSE THEY GOT TO LIVE AND LAUGH AND PARTY *UPWORLD* --

-- WHILE MY *"ANCESTORS"*, THE MORLOCKS, WERE ALWAYS SENTENCED TO MUCK AND MIRE AND MUD.

ALL THAT, *AAAND...*

AS DISCOVERED IN UNCANNY X-MEN #322 -BOB

...WE *FELT* LIKE IT.

MEA!

AM I SAFE IN *ASSUMING*, ON THE WORLD WHERE YOU CLAIM YOU AND GENE NATION WERE *RAISED...*

...NO ONE HAS YET COINED THE TERM *"GROUP THERAPY"*?

OUCH.

DOES OUR TEACH KNOW HOW TO GIVE OFF *MAJOR 'TUDE*, OR WHAT?

CERTAINLY A SIDE OF HER WE DON'T *NORMALLY* GET TO SEE.

FORTUNATELY.

HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT THE LADY'S BEEN DOIN' THIS A *LOT* LONGER THAN WE HAVE.

FROSTY HAS BEEN STALLIN' THEM LONG ENOUGH FOR "RESCUE 'R' US."

MIGHT BE A PROBLEM, *CHICA*.

THIS CLOSE TO LEECH...

... YER LOSIN' YER SKIN-STRETCHING POWER?

EEEYUUEE.

'COURSE, IF I HAD SYNCHED MY AURA TO HIM *FIRST*, I WOULD HAVE *HAD* LEECH'S POWER.

PROBABLY.

JUBES..?

I CAN'T *GENERATE* A SINGLE *SPARK*, DUDE.

SO --

-- ANY IDEAS?

WHY WAIT FOR FIRST ONE, MARROW?

LET'S MAKE MEMORIES OF THESE TWO!

BE *PATIENT*, HEMINGWAY. WE'VE WAITED TWENTY YEARS, WE CAN WAIT A FEW MOMENTS MORE AS A *NICE* TO FIRST ONE.

HOW PEACEFUL SLEEP WILL BE, KNOWING THIS ONE IS BEING *POKED* AND PRODDED, AND PUNISHED.

LEECH IS THE *LAST* OF THOSE WHO WERE ONCE OUR ANCESTORS. THEY WERE SCARED, UGLY, SHY MUTANTS --

-- TOO AFRAID TO TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, EVEN BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON.

HONESTLY?

THEY WERE AN *EMBARRASSMENT.*

THU

COWARDS ALL!

YET YOU *NEED* HIM, NONETHELESS.

YOU'RE USING HIS *DAMPENING* POWER TO CANCEL OUT MY PSIONICS.

SO?

LEECH IS *SORRY*, MA'AM.

I'M SORRY AS WELL, CHILD...

... ABOUT THIS!

WHAM

HARSH!

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE DID THAT!

SLUMP

?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE DID THAT!

QUICKLY, HEMINGWAY!

KILL HER BEFORE...

... SHE...

SHE PSIONICALLY FIRES OFF EVERY CEREBRAL SYNAPSE AT ONCE.

TEMPORARILY "FRYING" THEIR BRAINS.

IZZZZT

IT HURTS.

LOTS.

INTERESTING.

THEY SHOULD BE SO MUCH BRAIN JELLO BY NOW.

BUT... SOMEHOW... THERE'S SOMETHING... ABOUT THEIR CEREBRAL MAKE-UP THAT SHIELDED THEM FROM MY BLAST.

THEY'RE RECOVERING. RAPIDLY. TOO QUICKLY.

IF I DON'T FINISH THEM, NOW...

I THINK THEY GET THE POINT.

MS. FROST.

SIR.

RUN ALONG, CHILD.

THIS *DOESN'T* CONCERN YOU.

WE'D LIKE TO THINK IT DOES.

BRAVO. YOU MANAGED TO *TRACK* ME ON YOUR OWN.

GOLD STARS FOR THE *WHOLE CLASS.*

NOW *GO.* I'LL MEET YOU ALL BACK AT --

BUT MS. FROST, THE *AUTHORITIES* SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THINGS FROM HERE.

UNLESS...

... YOU PLAN ON PAYING THESE PEOPLE BACK FOR WHAT THEY DID TO THOSE *PARTYERS.* AND YOUR DRIVER. *AND* THE SECURITY GUARDS.

IF YOU *WANTED TO,* MS. FROST...

... IT'S NOT LIKE ANY ONE OF *US* COULD STOP YOU.

RIGHT?

YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THERE, ANGELO.

TRUST ME.

ALWAYS, SEÑORITA.

I HAVE BEEN *OUT OF CIRCULATION* WAY ***WAY*** TOO LONG.

ONE MINUTE, I'VE A PEN *FILLED* TO OVERFLOWING WITH MORLOCK *TEST SUBJECTS.*

TURN AROUND, AND THE TUNNELS ARE *OVERRUN* BY THESE NEW KIDS.

AND *"GENE NATION"?* FORGET ABOUT IT.

ONE SURPRISE AFTER THE NEXT. AS A MAN -- SUCH AS IT WERE -- OF SCIENCE...

...I HATE SURPRISES.

UNLESS I ENGINEER THEM.

ADMITTEDLY, I OWE MARROW AND HER FRIENDS A *MODICUM* OF GRATITUDE.

KLIK

SHE... *SUMMONED* ME -- CALLED ME "*FIRST ONE*" -- TO HELP THEM PLOT THEIR LITTLE *GENETIC REVOLUTION.*

SEE X-MEN: PRIME -BOB

BUT I HAVE MY *OWN... STRATAGEM* TO CONSIDER.

ONE WELL OVER *TWO... DECADES* OLD.

AMATEURS, I'M AFRAID, WERE *NOT* PART\OF THE *CONTINGENCY.*

TIP TAP TIP TAP

KLIK

EMMA.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS.

BUT THIS *IS* SCIENCE...

... AND SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE.

KLIK

MS. FR--

Shhhh...

EVERYONE OUT --

-- NOW!

IN AN INSTANT BEFORE THE BLAST --

-- SHE FELT IT.

A PRESENCE.

FAMILIAR.

AT THE BACK OF HER NECK.

SOMEONE... WAS HAPPY?

THE TWISTED KIND OF CONTENTMENT THAT ONLY COMES FROM MAYHEM.

KRNK

EEEEEE!

YOU SENSED THAT BLAST -- *BEFORE* IT HAPPENED?

THWAP

YANK

BARELY. THE OTHERS ..?

I'M *ON IT!*

JUBILEE?!

THE KID -- *LEECH* -- IS STILL *OUT COLD.*

GOTTA YANK HIM OUT OF THERE *BEFORE* THE *REST* OF THE PLACE --

RRRRRT

-- CAVES IN?

I *APPLAUD* YOUR EFFORT, JUBILATION.

THAT WAS CERTAINLY A VALID *ATTEMPT* AT A RESCUE.

THOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING TO DO *WITHOUT* THE USE OF MY *SUPERIOR STRENGTH.*

WAY *I* SEE IT, M --

-- IF YOU CAN PRESS THAT SLAB *AND* PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK AT THE SAME TIME...

...HOW HEAVY COULD IT BE?

SHOULD I *DROP* IT? THEN WE'LL FIND OUT FOR SURE.

THANKS *ANYWAY, MONET.*

AND THANKS.

LATER...

ALL I'M SAYING...

ALL I'M SAYING...

FOX MACHINE HEAD

SCOOT

PEACE

RAID KEV

LEMO

... IS THAT IF THE *REST* OF YOU HADN'T *ABANDONED* ME IN *ROCKEFELLER CENTER*,⊗ I MIGHT HAVE MORE EASILY *FACILITATED* THE DEFEAT OF --

YADDA YADDA YADDA.

IF YOU WEREN'T MAKIN' LIKE A TWO-= ARMED *VENUS DIMAGGIO* -- ALL *CATATONIC* AN' ALL -- WE WOULDN'TA *LEFT* YA IN THE *FIRST* PLACE.

WHA'S *UP* WITH THAT, SAINT CROIX?

YOU PULL THAT *"SPACE CADET"* CRAP IN THE MIDDLE OF A *FIGHT*, AND WE'RE ALL *TOAST.*

WORRY ABOUT YOUR *OWN* PERFORMANCE, LEE.

I'LL WORRY ABOUT MINE.

LOOK, I WAS *ONLY* TRYIN' TO --

LAST ISSUE -BOB

LET'S GO, GIRLS.

I'M PSIONICALLY TRYING TO *REACH* THE X-MEN WITH OUR *EXACT* LOCATION. BUT --

-- I SEEM TO BE HAVING TROUBLE --

WHITE QUEEN?

YES?

PLEASE DON'T KICK *LEECH* AGAIN.

-> Sigh <-

ANYONE HAVE A *QUARTER* FOR A *PHONE CALL?*

LATER STILL... AT THE PLACE WHERE THE LEGEND OF THE X-MEN BEGAN...

... THE XAVIER INSTITUTE IN NEARBY WESTCHESTER COUNTY...

PROFESSOR CHARLES FRANCIS XAVIER.

A MUTANT POSSESSED OF THE MOST POWERFUL MIND ON THE PLANET.

YET, I'M *PUZZLED.*

YOU SHOULD BE A LOT MORE THAN *PUZZLED* BY *GENE NATION*, XAVIER.

THEY'RE... *EVIL.*

THERE'S NO OTHER WORD FOR WHAT I *SAW INSIDE* THEM.

OR WHAT I *DIDN'T* SEE.

IF I WAS *ANYBODY* ELSE *OTHER* THAN ME... I'D BE SCARED.

BISHOP AND PSYLOCKE HAVE SCOURED THE TUNNELS. I'M AFRAID THEY FOUND NOTHING.

YOU'LL HEAR FROM THEM AGAIN, XAVIER. *SOON.*

THE PROFESSOR SAYS YOUR NAME IS *ARTIE*, eh?

HE'S *TRANSFERRING* YOU FROM YOUR *PRIVATE SCHOOL* TO OUR MUTANT TRAINING ACADEMY.

Oh, *JOY.*

MASCOTS.

CAN WE *GO* NOW?

NOT *WITHOUT* JUBILEE, ANGELO.

SHE SAID SHE WENT TO CHECK ON A FRIEND.

POR FAVOR, I SAW HER *TROT* OUT BACK.

WHAT KIND OF *"FRIEND"* LIVES IN THE *WOODS?*

YO, WOLVIE.

YOU OUT HERE, OR *WHAT?*

LOGAN?

YER KINDA *FREAKIN'* ME OUT WITH THIS *"ME, WOLVERINE -- YOU, JANE"* RIFF, eh?

DIDN'T *MEAN TO,* HALF PINT.

TO HER CREDIT --

-- SHE SWALLOWS HER GASP.

I WISH YA WOULDA *LISTENED* TA STORM WHEN SHE SAID I DON'T *WANNA* BE *DISTURBED.*

I WAS *HALF* HOPIN' YA WOULDN'T HAVE T'*SEE* ME LIKE *THIS,* KID.

AND THE *OTHER* HALF?

THE OTHER HALF WAS *PRAYIN'* TO THE *BIG GUY* THAT YA'D *COME* TO ME NOW.

NOW, WHEN I *NEED* YA THE *MOST.*

SINCE I LOST MY ADAMANTIUM, KID, I CAN'T BE TRUSTED AROUND PEOP--

MAN oh MAN ALIVE, WOLVIE! I TURN MY BACK ON YA FOR *FIVE MINUTES* AND, LIKE --

-- YA TOTALLY FALL *A.P.A.R.T.* WITHOUT ME, YA BIG LUG.

I KNEW IT WAS A *MISTAKE* T'LEAVE YA. BUT I PROMISE, LOGAN, I'LL *NEVER* LEAVE YA AGAIN.

JUBILEE, WHEN YA *WROTE ME* AND TOLD ME YA WAS GOIN' OFF TO SCHOOL TO *LEARN* ABOUT YOUR POWERS --

-- T'BE A *BETTER* X-MAN..?

I WAS *PROUD* O'YA.

THE SAME WAY I GUESS I'D BE... IF I WAS EVER A *FATHER...* AND YOU MY *DAUGHTER.*

PROMISE ME YOU'LL STAY IN SCHOOL AND LEARN ABOUT YER POWERS -- SO *NUTHIN'* LIKE THIS EVER HAPPENS TO YOU.

I PROMISE.

WOLVIE -- I *TOTALLY MISS* YOU.

THAT'S NICE, KID.

I MISS ME, TOO...

XAVIER'S.

ELLO- HAY ENANCE- PAY.

THAT WAS A *JOKE*, LASS.

FEEL FREE TO SMILE -- eh?

?!

GATEWAY?

WHAT DO YE *WANT*, MAN..?

...AND *WHY'RE* YE *COVERIN'* YE EARS?

LESS THAN AN INSTANT LATER...

*... SEAN CASSIDY RECEIVES HIS ANSWER IN THE FORM OF AN **EXPLOSION**, AS THE **GIRLS' DORM** CEASES TO EXIST.*

*EVEN MORE SHOCKING THAN THE **DESTRUCTION** IS THE **RECOGNITION** OF THE POWER SIGNATURE LEFT IN ITS WAKE.*

*BANSHEE KNOWS THAT **SOMEHOW... SOMEWAY...** THE BLAST WAS **TRIGGERED** BY THE YOUNG MUTANT CALLED **CHAMBER.***

SAINTS PRESERVE US, *JONO...* WHAT HAVE YE DONE?

NEXT ISSUE:

AFTERMATH!

Which isn't nearly as difficult as AFTERTRIGONOMETRY, but a heck of a lot easier than AFTERRUSSIANLITERATURE!

CHRIS, SEE YA SOON -- SCOTT

COMING SEPTEMBER

X-MEN DELUXE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GENERATION X™

MUKITA

7

Chi'stopher

STAN LEE PRESENTS
GENERATION X
CREATED BY SCOTT LOBDELL & CHRIS BACHALO

YE HAVE T'UNDERSTAND SOMETHIN' ABOUT THAT NIGHT SO MANY YEARS AGO...

I HAD RESIGNED FROM INTERPOL 'CAUSE I COULDNAE GET ANYONE T'BELIEVE ME.

SOME WICKED BLEATIN' MUTANT WAS TRAIPSIN' ALL ABOUT EUROPE --

-- KILLIN' INNOCENTS ON A WHIM... WITH NAE A TRACE.

HOLD ON, LASS -- I HAVE YE!

I THOUGHT I COULD STOP HIM.

I WAS WRONG.

NIGHTS and BOLTS

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I WAS WRONG...

...AND SOMEONE ELSE WOUND UP PAYIN' THE PRICE FOR ME INEXPERIENCE.

<TELL ME, AGENT CASSIDY -- WAS IT WORTH IT?>

<YOU RISKED EVERYTHING TO FIND ME... >

<... AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SHOW FOR YOUR SACRIFICE?>

MAKE NO MISTAKE, MAN.

YOUR REIGN OF TERROR ENDS.

HERE.

TONIGHT.

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN. -- BILINGUAL BOB!

<WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, IRISHMAN?

<KILL ME?>

<AGAIN?>

PLANETARY

I TOOK NO JOY IN PULLIN' THE TRIGGER.

T'THIS DAY, I TRY T'CONVINCE MESELF THAT SOMEHOW --

-- THE GUILT I FEEL VALIDATES WHAT I DID.

T'BE HONEST --

DO YOU MIND?!

HUNH?!

HUNH?!

THERE ARE THOSE OF US TRYING TO GET MUCH NEEDED SLEEP!

EMMA -- WHAT ARE YE DOIN' HERE, WOMAN?!

YE WERE NAE AT CASSIDY KEEP THAT NIGHT THIS ALL WENT DOWN.

WAKE-UP, SEAN! AND I MEAN THAT.

LITERALLY.

DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU'RE DREAMING?

ACCH, WOMAN?! WHAT KIND OF MIND-WITCH ARE YE--

-- THAT YE PRANCE AROUND WILLY-NILLY IN AN UNSUSPECTIN' SOUL'S NIGHT-MARE?!

IS NOTHING SACRED TO YE, EMMA?!

LOOK, YOU IRISH BASSET HOUND -- LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT:

YOU'RE THE ONE IMPINGING ON MY DREAM!

YE ARE DAFT, LASS?! WHY'N EARTH WOULD I --

REALITY.

WHU --?!

I'M *AWAKE* --

-- AND ON THE COUCH IN ME PRIVATE COTTAGE HERE AT *XAVIER'S SCHOOL.*

BEEN HAVIN' THE SAME DREAM EVERY NIGHT SINCE I GAVE UP ME *BED* TO *EMMA FROST.*

NOT MUCH *CHANCE* O'BEIN' A *COINCIDENCE,* IS THERE?

ME OWN *FAULT,* REALLY.

... SEAN THE GENTLEMAN HAD T'GO AN' *OFFER* ME *OWN SPACE* TO TH'DISPLACED *EMMA THE HOMELESS.*

BUT *ENOUGH* IS *MORE'N* ENOUGH!

IT'S *THIS* SIMPLE, CASSIDY: *I AM A TELEPATH.*

AFTER THAT *EXPLOSION* TOOK OUT THE GIRL'S DORM... ⊗

... AND THE *WHITE QUEEN TEMPORARILY* GAVE UP *HER* HOUSE...

LAST ISH -- BEDTIME BOB

AN INSTANT BEFORE HE KNOCKS...

BEING IN SUCH *CRAMPED QUARTERS,* I'M BEING *DRAGGED* INTO YOUR DREAMS.

LIFE IS *TOUGH.*

SORRY.

GOOD NIGHT!~

YE -- YE DINNAE DO THIS ON PURPOSE, THEN?

HARDLY, SEAN.

I HAVE A *LIST* OF PEOPLE I'D LIKE TO *SHARE* MY NIGHTS WITH.

IT'S A SHORT LIST.

YOU'RE *NOT* ON IT.

WELL THEN... I GUESS I *OWE YE* SOMETHIN' OF AN *APOLOGY.*

GIVEN YOUR HISTORY AN' ALL... I ASSUMED YE WERE USING YOUR PSIONIC POWERS *DELIBERATELY.*

IF THE GIRLS DIDN'T NEED *MY HOME,* I WOULD *GLADLY* BE LIVING ACROSS THE QUAD!

BUT *UNTIL* THE DORM IS FIXED...

... WE'RE ROOMIES? *AYE.*

THE *TRUTH* OF THE MATTER, IS, I'VE *NAE* BEEN *SLEEPIN'* WELL OF LATE. I ADMIT I'VE BEEN A *LITTLE BIT* ON *EDGE.*

NOT A PROBLEM.

WOULD YOU... LIKE TO *TALK* ABOUT IT?

WITH ME?

THANK YE, ANYWAY. I'D LIKE TO KEEP ME OWN *PRIVATE* DEMONS... *PRIVATE.*

WELL, AS THE *HEADMISTRESS* TO THE *HEADMASTER* HERE AT OUR SCHOOL FOR WAYWARD MUTANTS --

!!

-- YOU *KNOW* WHERE TO FIND ME.

Ulp!

SLAM

NOW... HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET BACK TO *SLEEP?!*

HE DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE GOING TO BE NIGHTS LIKE THIS --

-- WHEN HE FIRST AGREED TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION OF YOUNG, POTENTIAL X-MEN ABOUT THEIR MUTANT POWERS...

ENGLISH, WRITING AND GEOMETRY.

AERODYNAMICS AND FLYING.

BIO-GENETIC SIGNATURE IDENTIFICATION AND EMPATHIC SHIELD DEFENSES.

NOT HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE HIS OWN DAUGHTER, HOWEVER...

... HE SOON DISCOVERED SOME THINGS, EXPERIENCE ASIDE, ONE CAN'T TEACH FROM A TEXT BOOK.

NOWHERE IS THAT MORE OBVIOUS THAN IN THE REMAINS OF THE GIRLS' DORMITORY.

WHAT A REGULAR CLASS ACT I TURNED OUT T'BE.

PLANNIN' A CAREER IN SAVING THE WORLD, AND I GET ALL SPOOKED WHEN SOME CHIPPY TRIES T'KISS ME?

IF PAIGE HADN'T USED 'ER "HUSKING" POWER AT THE LAST SEC --

-- ME OWN PSIONIC BLAST WOULDA DONE A LOT WORSE THAN SOME PROPERTY DAMAGE.

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT 'APPENED THE FIRST TIME I USED ME MUTANT POWERS, YER'D THINK I'D BE MORE PREPARED.

IT IS THOUGHTS LIKE THESE THAT KEEP JONOTHON STARSMORE -- THE ONE CALLED CHAMBER -- MOSTLY ALONE...

... THOUGH, NOT NEARLY AS ALONE AS HE'D LIKE TO BE.

MKT

WHU--?!

WHO'S THERE? STEP INTA THE LIGHT, OR SO HELP ME, I'LL LOB YER NAFFIN' 'EAD OFF!

YER BATTIN' A *THOUSAND*, "CHAMBER" --

-- LASHING OUT -- THREATENING A BODY WITH THE SAME POWERS THAT DID SO MUCH DAMAGE TO *MESELF?*

AS IF I COULD EVER WISH *THIS* FACE ON SOMEONE ELSE?

PAIGE?

AFTER WHAT *AH* -- WHAT *I* DID LAST NIGHT, I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU FOR WANTING TO *CLEAN* MY *CLOCK* --

FERGET IT.

YER WAS FRIGHTENED AFTER YER LEARNED ABOUT THE LEGACY VIRUS WOT KILLS MUTANTS.

TRUE.

AND *JONO...?*

SORRY, *SUNSHINE.* I'M A BIT OFF ME BEAM.

S'OKAY, *JONO.*

... AFTER I TRIED TO GO AN' *KISS* YOU AND ALL.

PEOPLE DO DUMB THINGS WHEN THEY'RE SCARED.

THANK YOU.

FOR..?

FOR TAKING THE *HEAT.*

FOR NOT TELLING THE OTHER KIDS OR Ms. FROST HOW THIS HAPPENED. I'D HAVE *DIED* FROM *EMBARASSMENT* IF...

... I MEAN... IF...

YEAH, LUV.

*I COULD SEE HOW SHOWIN' INTEREST IN A **MONSTER** LIKE ME... WOULD BE... **EMBARASSING.***

JONO -- PLEASE. THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

JONOTHON?

FROM HER BEDROOM WINDOW ON A KENTUCKY FARMHOUSE, PAIGE GUTHRIE USED TO DREAM OF A LIFE AT XAVIER'S.

*SHE'D BE THE PERFECT STUDENT -- AND BE THE X-MAN HER BROTHER **SAM** HAD YET TO BECOME.*

*SHE'D DO **EVERYTHING** RIGHT -- HAVE EVERY ANSWER TO EVERY QUESTION.*

PERFECT.

IT HASN'T QUITE WORKED OUT THAT WAY.

NO!

WAY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

THE HAYSEED AND YORKSHIRE PUDDING ARE HANGIN' ON THE SLY?

JUBILATION LEE, HOWEVER, IS ANOTHER STORY ENTIRELY.

SHE CAME FROM THE X-MEN IN ORDER TO BETTER DEVELOP HER PYROKINETIC POWERS.

SHE WAS NATURALLY HALF-COUNTING ON HAVING RULE OF THE ROOST.

THE FRUSTRATION OF HER PLANS COULD BEST BE SUMMED UP IN THREE WORDS:

MONET ST. CROIX.

Forrest Gump

HI, RO!

YOU REALIZE, JUBILEE, YOU ARE BEING TREZ RUDE.

M -- WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING AWAKE?

RAISED TO BE POLITE AS I WAS -- I DIDN'T WISH TO DISTURB MY TEMPORARY ROOMMATES. I WAS READING.

IN THE DARK? I'D BE IMPRESSED IF I BELIEVED YOU.

COME ON, SAINT CROIX -- WHAT COULD BE THAT INTERESTING?

NOTHING -- IT'S PERSONAL!

C'MON. A PEEK?

NOT EVEN.

HEY?!

LET GO!

THAT'LL HAPPEN.

SCREECH

WHOOOPS.

TELL ME THAT WAS HUSK.

PLEASE OPLEASEO PLEASEO...

YOU... YOU *RIPPED* IT.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN HERE?!

KLIK

GUTHRIE!

er,... NO BIGGIE, HUSK -- -- JUST THAT M HERE WOULDN'T *SHARE* HER...

!!

...COLORING BOOK?

IT MUST BE FROM HER *CHILDHOOD*, LEE... *SO GIVE IT BACK!*

NOW!

SIR, YES, SIR.

YES... IT'S A *MEMENTO.*

I GUESS I'M SORRY, I --

NEXT THING YOU KNOW, YOU'LL BE EAVESDROPPING!

SATISFIED?

GOSH -- NOT *TOO* SENSITIVE, huh?

M?!

AT *LEAST* IT ISN'T ONE OF THE TEACHERS.

NOT THAT IT'D *MATTER MUCH.*

IT'S *TOO LATE* TO STOP US.

'SIDES, IT AIN'T LIKE WE'RE *DESTROYIN'* THE *BIO-SPHERE* --

TIP TAP TIP TIP

-- THE *PLACE* WHERE WE *TRAIN* WITH OUR POWERS.

WE'RE ONLY TALKIN' ABOUT A FEW... MINOR *ALTERATIONS!*

HOLA, AMIGO AND COMPANY!

THIS MAY BE THE *LAST* BOX OF *NAILS* ON *CAMPUS.*

ANGELO ESPINOSA. CALLED "SKIN" BECAUSE OF THE ADDITIONAL EPIDERMIS THAT IS HIS MUTANT ABILITY.

BORN ON THE STREETS OF EAST L.A...

... HE'S A LONG WAY FROM THE BARRIO.

PERFECT, ANGE... BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT TO ADD THE FINISHING TOUCHES.

"LITTLE BUDDIES," eh?

THAT MIGHT BE PUSHING IT, BUT I'LL ADMIT... THE MUCHACHOS GROW ON YOU.

OUR TWO LITTLE BUDDIES ARE CHOMPING AT THE BIT TO HOLD THEIR TREEHOUSE WARMING PARTY.

LEECH AND ARTIE ARE HAPPY!

EVERETT THOMAS, ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT JUST AS WELL BE HOME.

NOT UNLIKE HIS MUTANT ABILITY TO PUT HIS GENETIC AURA IN SYNCH WITH OTHER MUTANTS --

-- THEREBY MIMICKING THEIR POWERS --

-- THIS ST. LOUIS NATIVE IS APPARENTLY AT EASE ANYWHERE.

YOU REALIZE WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO GET KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL FOR THIS?

NONSENSE.

THESE TWO HAVEN'T LEFT THE BIO-SPHERE SINCE WE RESCUED THEM FROM GENE NATION.

IF THEY'RE GOING TO TREAT THIS TERRARIUM LIKE A HOME, IT SHOULD FEEL LIKE A HOME.

SO LONG AS THEY'RE AWAY FROM ME.

I AIN'T A BIG FAN OF FORMER MORLOCKS WHO CAN DAMPEN MY POWER JUST BY BEING.

Oh, SAVE THE "TOUGH GUY" ACT FOR THE OTHER KIDS, SKIN.

I KNOW YOU'RE A BIG OLE SOFTIE.

ALL I'M *SAYIN'* IS WHAT I'M SAYIN'.

I DIDN'T GROW UP WITH NO TREEHOUSE, AND I TURNED OUT *FINE.*

C'MON, ESPINOSA --

-- TELL ME YOU AND A FEW HOMIES DIDN'T HAVE *ANY* PLACE TO JUST *HANG?*

THE POSSE I *RAN* WITH WAS TOO BUSY NOT GETTING *KILLED*, *AMIGO* -- AND *BURYING* EACH OTHER WHEN WE DID.

"HANGING" WAS NOT EVEN ON THE *SHORT LIST.*

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN *TOUGH.*

ARTIE SAYS, *MUY THANKS, AMIGOS!*

YOU'RE DOING *GREAT*, ARTIE.

YOUR *HOLOGRAPHIC PICTOGRAMS* ARE GETTING MORE *DETAILED* EVERY DAY. RIGHT, ANGE?

YEAH. *RIGHT.*

MAKES ME WANT TO RUN OUT AND BUY A *CAPE.*

THE

SOMEPLACE ELSE.

IRELAND.

COUNTY MAYO.

IN THE PARLANCE O' THE LAND --

BE THERE.

-- SOMETHIN' WICKED IS AFOOT THIS NIGHT.

PLEASE.

WHAM

WHAT?!

A *BEAST* SHOULD NAE BE OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!

CLOSE THE BLEATIN' *DOOR*, WOMAN!

MISSUS O'BRIEN?!

WHAT BRINGS YE T'TOWN?

I'VE NO *TIME* FER SILLY *SMALL-TALK* -- THE *PHONE*, DOUGAL!

YE'LL CALL *COLLECT*, OF COURSE.

AYE! AYE!

INTERNATIONAL OPERATOR..?

PLEASE CONNECT ME TO THE *UNITED STATES!*

I NEED T'DISCUSS A MATTER *MOST URGENT*... WITH *SEAN CASSIDY!*

XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

HE HAS NO NAME.

YET HE IS CALLED GATEWAY.

NO ONE KNOWS WHY HE IS HERE --

-- OR FOR HOW LONG --

-- OR WHAT, IF ANYTHING, HE HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH.

AND HE'S NOT SAYING.

-AHEM-

NOT DIRECTLY, ANYWAY.

HOW MUCH *LONGER* DO WE HAVE TO *STAY* HERE WITH THESE...

...THESE *CHILDREN.*

BUT WHY CAN'T *YOU* TRAIN ME IN MY POWERS, *MENTOR?!*

YOU WERE DOING *FINE* BEFORE THE --

-SIGH-

YES.

I *AGREE.*

EVEN IF YOU *ARE* WRONG.

ALL RIGHT, ALREADY -- I'M *CONCEN-TRATING...*

...CONCENTRATING...

"ASK YESELF, LAD...

"...WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH THIS PICTURE..?"

... AND WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE -- WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MESELF *INTO?*

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, SEAN?

ODD CHOICE OF WORDS FOR YE, WOMAN -- WHY *PAY* FOR WHAT YE CAN GET FOR *FREE?*

HOW PERFECTLY *WITTY.*

I DIDN'T COME OUT HERE TO *ARGUE* WITH YOU, CASSIDY.

FINE.

FINE.

GOOD.

GOOD.

I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING ACCESSIBLE EARLIER.

IF'N YE WERE ANY *MORE "ACCESSIBLE..."* YE'D HAVE BEEN DOWNRIGHT *INDECENT.*

TOUCHÉ.

I ... ALSO WANTED TO... *CONFESS.*

OH?

THE CHILD... *LEECH?*

IN NEW YORK. I... I...

... I *KICKED* HIM.

I KNOW.

JUBILEE, ANGELO AND EVERETT *TOLD* ME.

I WAS *WAITING* TO HEAR IT FROM YOUR LIPS.

I'M NOT PROUD OF WHAT I DID, SEAN.

I CERTAINLY DIDN'T *ENJOY* IT. BUT... WHILE THE BOY -- WHILE *LEECH* -- WAS *CONSCIOUS*, WE WERE BOTH *DEFENSELESS*... AT GENE NATION'S *MERCY*.

SHORT TERM, BOTTOM LINE: IT SAVED *BOTH* OUR LIVES.

LONG TERM..?

AM I REALLY *THAT* TERRIBLE A PERSON, *SEAN?*

LONG TERM: I *FEEL* RATHER LIKE A *MONSTER*.

I'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU WANT ME TO *GO*.

NOW?! AFTER YE ARE SHOWIN' THE *FIRST SIGNS* OF A *CONSCIENCE?*

NOT ON *MY* LIFE, Ms. FROST.

I *DOUBT* IT. I SUSPECT YE ARE A *FINE* PERSON...

... WHO'S BEEN *KNOWN* TO DO SOME TERRIBLE THINGS, AND WHAT YE DID WAS CRUEL. THERE *MUST* HAVE BEEN A BETT --!

YO, BANSHEE! PHONE!

OLD LADY. ACCENT. SCARED.

BE RIGHT THERE, JUBILEE...

HALLO?

BLESS ME SOUL -- 'TIS YE, MISTER CASSIDY?

AYE... MISSUS O'BRIEN?

SIR, I'M AFRAID I'M GOIN' T'HAVE T'ASK YE T'COME HOME... RIGHT AWAY!

TO IRELAND? WHY?

'TIS ALL A BIT STICKY T'EXPLAIN OVER THE PHONE BUT --

-- WELL, THE TRUTH O' THE MATTER IS, SIR...

YE'LL HAVE *T'SPEAK UP*, WOMAN -- WE'VE GOT A *BEASTLY CONNECTION* HERE!

IT *SOUNDS* LIKE YE SAID ME FAMILY CASTLE HAS JUST... **DISAPPEARED?!**

CAN YOU SAY "ROAD TRIP"?

YESSS!

NEXT ISSUE:

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CASTLE CASSIDY?

THE ANSWER MIGHT SURPRISE YOU!

WOLVERINE #94 OCCURS DURING A BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN *GENERATION X #7-8*, WHILE BANSHEE AND THE WHITE QUEEN MAKE PREPARATIONS TO FLY TO IRELAND WITH THE STUDENTS.

SO, YOU CALL YOURSELVES THE *DARK RIDERS..?*

... BIG DEAL.

YOUR *BOSS, WHOEVER* HE IS, MUST THINK PRETTY HIGHLY OF OL' *CYBER* TO GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF SPRINGIN' ME FROM THAT *HOOSEGOW* IN *SCOTLAND* --

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT YOU HAVE *CERTAIN* ADMIRABLE *QUALITIES.*

THIS IS THE END OF THE FLIGHT. SOMEBODY WILL MEET YOU HERE.

HOW COME YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR BUDDY, THE GREAT AND POWERFUL TALKING HEAD TO *ZAP* US HERE?

HARDDRIVE IS BUSY ELSEWHERE...

... AND WE DON'T WANT TO DRAW ATTENTION WITH A DISPLAY OF RESIDUAL RADIATION FROM THE TRANSDIMENSIONAL TRANSPORT FLUX.

OUR IMMEDIATE DESTINATION IS WHAT A BEING OF A CERTAIN AESTHETIC SENSIBILITY MIGHT CALL AN *"ARTISTIC INSTALLATION --"*

ART, huh?

STAN LEE PRESENTS AN ADVENTURE OF WOLVERINE

THE LURKER IN THE MACHINE

LARRY HAMA
SCRIPT

CHRIS ALEXANDER
PENCILS

MIKE SELLERS & AL MILGROM
INKS

RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT
LETTERING

JOE ROSAS
COLORING

VIOLENT HUES
MALIBU SEPS

BOB HARRAS
EDITOR

IT WAS AN *EXAMPLE.*

AN *OBJECT LESSON,* AS IT WERE, THAT CERTAIN *EVENTS* NEED NOT BE *TEMPORALLY FIXED.*

OR IN OTHER WORDS, *"IT CAN HAPPEN ANYTIME."*

THIS PLACE USED TO BE CALLED *AKKABA,* AND IT'LL BE CALLED THAT *AGAIN.*

IS THIS DOG AND PONY SHOW SUPPOSED TO *IMPRESS* ME..?

... IT DON'T.

Then you are a FOOL, Cyber!

I DON'T TAKE THAT FROM ANYTHING THAT CATCHES *FLIES* WITH ITS *TONGUE!*

I'LL EAT YOUR SPLEEN!

GOTTA CHEW YOUR WAY PAST A WHOLE *MESS* O' *ADAMANTIUM* TO DO *THAT*, MAGGOT-BREATH!

LOOKS TO BE A SANDSTORM BREWING...

... WHERE IS OUR *TRANSPORT?*

THERE *IS* NO TRANSPORT.

YOU SHALL BE *WALKING* TO YOUR DESTINATION...

... AND I SHALL BE YOUR *GUIDE.*

I AM CALLED *JAMIL* AND I AM IN THE SERVICE OF *CANDRA* --

-- AND *OTHERS.*

THIS WAY, LADY AND GENTLEMEN --

-- THE *CITADEL* OF THE *GREAT ONE* AWAITS.

WE'RE GONNA FOLLOW SOME PUNK *KID* INTO A RAGING *SANDSTORM* --?

-- HOO! *NEAT* TRICK.

BUT NOT *MY* DOING.

THIS THOROUGHFARE HAS BEEN *PROVIDED* BY ONE WHO WIELDS GREAT *POWER.*

Huh!

WHY DO YOU GUYS NEED A *GUIDE,* ANYWAY? DON'T YOU *KNOW* WHERE THE HEAD HONCHO *LIVES?*

YOU DON'T SAY.

THE *CITADEL* ISN'T WHAT YOU WOULD CALL *NAILED DOWN.*

IT IS NOT ROOTLESS INASMUCH AS ITS *SURROUNDINGS* HAVE A MARKED TENDENCY TOWARDS *COMMUTATION* AND *INVERSION.*

MEANWHILE, IN THE REC ROOM OF XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS IN MASSACHUSETTS...

HE IS SO GOING TO COME!

HE TOLD ME SO!

LET'S BE REALISTIC, SHALL WE, JUBILEE?

IT HAS BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE YOU CALLED WOLVERINE DOWN AT SALEM CENTER --

-- SO WHAT, HE DIDN'T SHOW UP? ES NADA.

FROM WHAT I HEAR, HE AIN'T PLAYIN' WITH A FULL TEAM IN THE CABEZA, YOU CATCH MY DRIFT?

-- BLOCKED YA!

BING

NO, I DON'T CATCH YOUR DRIFT!

BONK

GOAL! WE WIN, JUBILEE!

NO FAIR! YOU USED YOUR HEAD!

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO USE IN SOCCER, DUMMY --

-- AND YOU BETTER TAKE THAT BACK ABOUT WOLVY!

RAP RAP

Huh?

GOOD HEAVENS, JONOTHON! YOU *STARTLED* ME!

HEADS UP, M...

... WE'VE GOT *COMPANY.*

IT'S JUST SOMEBODY COMING OUT OF THE *WOODS.*

THOSE WOODS?

THE *ROAD* IS ON THE *OTHER SIDE* OF THE HOUSE!

EITHER SOMEBODY TOOK THE *LONG* WAY AROUND OR THEY JUST WALKED THROUGH TEN MILES OF FOREST!

-=MFGH=-

HUSK IS RIGHT, BUT THAT AIN'T JUST *ANY* OL' SOMEBODY --

I'D RECOGNIZE THAT *WALK* FROM A *MILE* AWAY...

... THAT'S *WOLVY!*

WELCOME TO THE *NEW* SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, LOGAN --

-- AND BY THE WAY, ***HOW*** DID YE GET PAST THE ***SENSORS*** UNDETECTED?

CHOMP

OUTTA THE WAY, CASSIDY. I GOT A MEAN CASE O' THE HUNGRIES.

WHAT SAY, EMMA?

CRUNCH

YOU HAD TO SET THOSE SENSORS SO THAT RABBITS AND RACOONS AND DEER WOULDN'T SET THEM OFF ALL THE TIME.

YA COULD'VE SET 'EM FOR MASS, BUT YA GOT BLACK BEARS UP HERE IN THE BERKSHIRES...

... SO I FIGURED THEY WERE SET FOR HEIGHT.

I CRAWLED IN TO THE EDGE OF THE TREELINE.

DID YOU LEAVE YOUR MOTORCYCLE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WOODS?

DIDN'T RIDE THE HOG UP HERE, MS. FROST...

I DID IT MOSTLY RUNNIN' THROUGH THE WOODS AT NIGHT.

HAD TO HOP A LOT OF FENCES AND BACK YARDS, AND GETTIN' ACROSS THEM INTERSTATES WAS HOLY MURDER, BUT IT FELT GOOD.

CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.

NOR ARE WE INTERESTED IN YOUR DOING SO.

I DON'T SEE WHY WE NEED YOU HERE, BUT I SUPPOSE WE COULD CONSIDER THIS YOUR FIRST LESSON AS OUR SPECIAL GUEST LECTURER ON FIGHTING SKILLS!

YO! LEMME *THROUGH!*

AHEM! IT'S ABOUT TIME YA GOT HERE! I WAS AFRAID YOU WEREN'T GOING TO COME!

YOU KNOW, I REALLY DIDN'T FEEL LIKE TROMPIN' ALL THE WAY UP HERE...

... I'VE BEEN ON THE UNSOCIABLE SIDE LATELY.

THE INSIDES O' BUILDIN'S JUST GIVE ME THE WILLIES.

DAIRY

THEN WHY BOTHER COMING?

COMES A TIME YA GOTTA PASS ON WHAT YA KNOW.

THAT'S THE WAY O' THINGS.

YA LEARN AND YA PASS IT ON AND WHEN YA TEACH WHAT YA KNOW, YA MAKE IT PLAIN IN YER OWN HEAD.

FOOSH

IF YA DON'T PASS IT ON, THEN WHAT'S THE USE?

BESIDES, IT WAS YOU WHO ASKED ME UP HERE, DARLIN'.

THAT'S WHY I CAME.

PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

NEXT MORNING...

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING...

... AND THE PROPER ATTITUDE IS *POSITIVE.*

YOU GO INTO A FIGHT TO WIN.

NO RETREAT.

NO SURRENDER.

WHAT IF OUR INTENT IS TO CAPTURE, NOT KILL?

WE DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYBODY.

THEN DON'T GET INTO A FIGHT.

RUN.

NEVER GET INTO A SET-TO UNLESS YA INTEND TO WIN.

BEAR IN MIND THAT THIS IS LOGAN'S PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW AND NOT A VIEW ADVOCATED BY THE FACULTY OF THIS INSTITUTION!

I'VE HEARD *THAT* SONG BEFORE, BUB...

... BUT THE TUNE ALWAYS SEEMS TO CHANGE WHEN THE WOLF IS AT THE DOOR.

I THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK OUT.

DO YOU, SEAN? LOGAN IS HARDLY WHAT I'D THOUGHT YOU'D CONSIDER A *ROLE MODEL.*

I MUST ADMIT THAT I'VE BEEN A WEE BIT WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WE'VE HEARD FROM CHARLES ABOUT LOGAN'S BEHAVIOR OF LATE.

ESPECIALLY THAT INCIDENT WITH SAM --

BUT HE ACQUITTED HIMSELF QUITE WELL WHEN HE WENT UP AGAINST THOSE GENE NATION REFUGEES --

-- I'LL AT LEAST HAND HIM THAT.

LAST ISSUE -- Bob.

SEE UNCANNY X-MEN #324 AND #325 -- Bob again.

SO MUCH FOR *THEORY.*

LET'S GET DOWN TO THE NITTY-GRITTY.

YOU.

SKIN.

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT.

WHO, *ME?*

YOU ASKIN' ME TO *THROW DOWN* ON *YOU?*

WE AIN'T HERE TO FLIP *POGS,* JUNIOR.

YOU ASKIN' *ME* TO TAKE YOU DOWN--?

-- TO *START* IT?

... I'M GONNA START IT!

THWIP

THLIKT

NO...

YOU LOSE.

RULE NUMBER ONE...

HIJO DE LA --

... NEVER LOOK AT YOUR OPPONENT'S *HAND* OR *WEAPON.*

LOOK AT THE *EYES.*

THAT'S WHAT'LL TELL YA WHERE THE TROUBLE'S COMIN' FROM.

YOU WEREN'T HALF BAD, SKIN.

YOU GOT SOME *MOVES* ON YA.

GRACIAS.

LET'S FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF MOVES THE REST O' YOU'VE GOT!

I'M GONNA FADE MYSELF INTO THE BAD BUSH AND GET DOWN INTO MY ULTRA-SNEAKY MODE.

GONNA DO MY NINJA CREEP AND THE CAT BURGLAR SLITHER.

NOW, YOU COME ON IN HERE...

...AND *FIND* ME!

-YAWN-

WILL SOMEBODY WAKE ME WHEN THIS GETS INTER-ESTING?

HE MAY BE COMING ON A LITTLE TOO HEAVY --

HEAVY? THE MAN IS THE *DEFINITION* OF THE WORD --

YEAH, WELL, I THINK HE'S JUST PLAIN RUDE.

WOLVY MAY BE A LITTLE *ROUGH* AROUND THE EDGES, BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU CALL TO DIS A DUDE...

...WHO WALKED ALL THE WAY UP HERE FROM WESTCHESTER JUST TO SHARE HIS HARD-EARNED *KNOWLEDGE* WITH US!

Y'KNOW, IF THAT'S WHAT AN *X-MAN* IS --

-- I'M *NOT* SURE I WANT TO BE ONE.

¡HOLA, LOBEZNO!⊗

WE'RE COMING IN AFTER YOU!

⊗ THAT'S SPANISH FOR 'WOLVERINE' -- Bilingual Bob.

ANYTHING?

NADA.

HOW CAN HE DISAPPEAR SO COMPLETELY?

I THINK I FOUND HIM --

BUT?

SOMETHING'S *WRONG* --

.....

WHAT --?

JUST KEEP STILL AND *LISTEN!*

HE'S FROZEN, LIKE --

¿QUE PASA?

MORE MUMBO-JUMBO!

IT IS *NOT* --

BACK OUT OF THE FOLIAGE REAL QUIET...

... AND WHEN YOU GET IN THE *CLEAR*, *RUN FOR THE EXIT!*

THIS IS NO *DRILL* -- HE *MEANS* IT!

WHAT THE DEUCE --

DID YOU SET THAT UP?

IS THAT A NEW ELECTRONIC *TRICK?*

IF IT IS, YOU'RE PRETTY *SICK!*

WHAT ARE YOU GOING *ON* ABOUT, LOGAN?

WE DID *NOTHING!*

THEN SHUT THIS BIOSPHERE DOWN AND LOCK IT UP...

... DON'T LET ANYBODY BACK IN, *ESPECIALLY* AT *NIGHT*, AND RUN A FULL *SCAN* ON IT FIRST THING IN THE *MORNING!*

THE NEXT DAY...

WE JUST SPENT TWO HOURS RUNNING EVERY SCAN *POSSIBLE* ON THE BIOSPHERE, AND *STILL* CAME UP NEGATIVE.

THERE'S *NOTHING* IN THERE!

LIVING OUT IN THE WOODS BEHIND THE *XAVIER INSTITUTE* IS MAKING LOGAN *PARANOID.*

BUT THERE *IS* SOMETHING IN THERE!

WE *SAW* IT!

I SEE YOUR FRIEND WOLVERINE'S LESSON HAS GONE oh, SO VERY WELL.

HE'S INFECTED THE STUDENTS WITH HIS *PARANOIA.*

P'HAPS HE TRULY IS TURNING INTO A *POOKA...*

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT, ANGELO.

I WAS HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING, YOU KNOW?

"I GOT UP TO MAKE MYSELF A HOT CHOCOLATE... "

"... AND I SEE *WOLVERINE* GOING DOWN THE HALL TOWARDS THE *BIOSPHERE* --

Huh? WHOZAT?

IT'S ME, *CHICA* -- I JUST SAW YOUR *TIO*, LOGAN, HEADIN' FOR THE BIOSPHERE!

YOU SURE HE WASN'T JUST LOOKING FOR A BEER?

HE WAS *SLINKIN'*.

I DON'T LIKE THIS, ANGELO --

-- HE TOLD US TO STAY AWAY FROM THIS PLACE!

THEN WHAT'S *HE* DOIN' DOWN HERE?

HE'S PROBABLY GOT A GOOD REASON! HE'S --

-- Oh, LORDY!

¡Al, CARAMBA!

"THERE WAS *WOLVIE*, ALL FRIZZED OUT LIKE HE WAS HAVING A BAD HAIR DAY, FIGHTING A -- A -- WHAT WOULD YOU *CALL* IT, ANGELO?"

"IT WAS SOME OUT-THERE FOREST SPIRIT, CHICA --

"-- LIKE WIND AND FIRE AND THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT ALL SWIRLING TOGETHER AND *ANGRY!*"

"NOW, DON'T GET US WRONG -- THIS THING AND WOLVIE WEREN'T, LIKE, *BEATING UP* ON EACH OTHER --"

"THEY WEREN'T DUKIN' LIKE MACHO CAMACHO, BUT THEY WAS *DEALIN'*, YOU KNOW?"

"WOLVIE GOT THAT *BERSERKER RAGE* THING GOING, YOU KNOW, LIKE THE *MAD* WAS RADIATING OFF HIS HEAD IN VISIBLE WAVES?"

"MUCHO BAD VIBES--!

"-- THAT THING IN THE BIOSPHERE COULDN'T HACK IT...

"... SO HE WAS *VAMANOS*, MUCHACHOS!

"ONLY TROUBLE WAS, THE ONLY WAY TO VAMANOS OUTTA THE BIOSPHERE --

"WAS RIGHT *THROUGH US!*"

"EVER HAVE THAT CREEPY COLD CHILL RUN UP YOUR SPINE..?

"... THIS WAS LIKE THAT, ONLY IT WENT RIGHT THROUGH OUR *SOULS!*"

WOOF!

SANTA MARIA Y--

GET YOURSELF TOGETHER, ANGELO!

THAT WAS A NIGHTMARE ON STEROIDS! IT FELT LIKE --

SAVE THE ANALYSIS FOR *LATER*, SKIN --!

WE GOTTA CHECK OUT *WOLVY!*

WOLVY?

GONE.

REALLY GONE.

AS GONE AS ANY *THING* CAN BE.

AS GONE AS *I* SHOULD BE.

WHAT *WAS* THAT THING?

HOW DID YOU DRIVE IT OFF?

IT WAS...

...IT CALLED ITSELF A *TOKEN.*

YOU TAKE CARE O' YOURSELF, DARLIN'...

IT'S TIME FOR THE OLD CANUCKLEHEAD TO FADE OUTTA HERE.

"HE HAD A LOOK IN HIS EYE THAT I HAD NEVER SEEN THERE BEFORE.

"IT WAS ALMOST LIKE...

"... DEFEAT.

"I WANTED TO CALL OUT TO HIM AS HE WALKED INTO THE WOODS, BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT...

"HE WAS GONE."

A *TOKEN* IS A WRAITH OF THE DEAD, OR, WORSE STILL, OF THE LIVING.

WRAITHS AND POOKAS? A LOAD OF RUBBISH!

IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE VERY NATURE OF THE *BIOSPHERE.* ITS SELF-REGENERATING QUALITIES ARE --

HOW DID WOLVY GET IT TO *LEAVE?*

BY BEING THERE.

HUH?

¿QUE?

THAT ONE FLEW RIGHT BY ME, TOO!

THE *TOKEN* CANNOT ABIDE ITS OWN KIND.

FINIS.

MARVEL COMICS

OCTOBER

X-MEN DELUXE

GENERATION X®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

What Lurks in Cassidy Keep?

8

GAMBIT®

A LOBDELLCRUZBUCKINGHAMILGROMBUCCELLATOCRAYONCOMICRAFTHARRAS PRODUCTION

THEY ARE CALLED GENERATION X

A ROSTER OF YOUNG MUTANTS AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS. TODAY, HOWEVER, THEY ARE A FAR WAYS AWAY FROM THE PRIVATE ACADEMY IN MASSACHUSETTS' BERKSHIRE MOUNTAINS.

THEY'VE TRAVELED ACROSS THE GLOBE TO MAYO COUNTY, IRELAND...

...TO A SIGHT THAT HAD, UNTIL RECENTLY, BEEN AN ANCIENT LANDMARK.

CURRENTLY, IT IS SOMETHING MORE AKIN TO...

...A BIG HOLE.

CREATED BY SCOTT LOBDELL & CHRIS BACHALO

I'M *TELLIN'* YE ONE AND ALL, THERE *USED TO BE* ME FAMILY'S *BLEATIN' CASTLE...* RIGHT HERE!

WHAT HAPPENED TO CASSIDY KEEP?!

NO EXPERT I'M, *SEAN, BUT...* YA ASK ME?

I'D SAY SOMEONE *"TOOK IT."*

Mr. CASSIDY? I'M AGENT SCICLUNA OF BLACK AIR, BRIT-INTEL.

I'VE HEARD OF YE, LASS...

...YE INVESTIGATE THE PARA-NORMAL.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, YES.

WE'RE EXTREMELY CURIOUS AS TO WHAT COULD POSSIBLY MAKE AN ENTIRE STRUCTURE THE SIZE OF CASSIDY KEEP SIMPLY... DISAPPEAR.

KEEP WONDERING. EVEN IF WE KNEW --

DOWN, EMMA.

IF I KNEW, AGENT, I'D TELL YE.

EVERETT, DUDE?

WE AIN'T BEEN TOGETHER TOO LONG, TRUE --

-- BUT I RECOGNIZE THAT LOOK.

WHA'S UP?

I...

... DON'T KNOW, JUBILEE.

I'VE... NEVER SEEN ANYTHING... LIKE IT.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE STEAM IN St. LOUIS?

IT'S... MORE THAN... THAT.

IT'S LIKE I CAN "SEE"... IMAGES... IN THE MISTS.

I CAN "HEAR" THE SCREAMS...

... ELVES BEING HUNTED DOWN AND KILLED...

... BY... KNIGHTS?

IT'S LIKE MY MIND IS IN ... SYNCH... WITH...

... ANOTHER WORLD?

DOES THAT SOUND... CRAZY?

NOPE.

SOUNDS LIKE "JET LAG" TO ME.

DON'T.

"DON'T" WHAT?

BUT JONOTHON STARSMORE IS NOT TALKING TO HER.

A BEING OF ALMOST PURE PSIONIC ENERGY, CHAMBER SENSES --

-- EVERETT THOMAS IS IN TROUBLE.

DEEP.

BANSHEE?!

Ms. FROST?!

ANYBODY?!

I TOUCHED THIS MIST AND --

-- Oh GOD! --

-- MY WHOLE BODY IS DISAPPEARING?!

TRIED T'WARN YA, SUNSHINE!

WITHOUT A SECOND'S THOUGHT --

-- CHAMBER FOLLOWS HIS TEAMMATE INTO THE HEART OF THE UNKNOWN!

JUBILEE... MY BODY BEING...

PULLED FROM...

... HERE TO...

... THERE.

JONOTHON! NO!

DON'T STAND THERE, CHICA!

LEAP IN...

THUMP

... AFTER THEM?

OR DON'T.

A VALIANT EFFORT ANGELO...

... BUT WHATEVER TOOK THE CASTLE AND THE LADS...

... SEEMS A BIT FICKLE.

THEN LET'S UNFICKLE IT!

SEE WOLVERINE #91 --BIO-BOB

SEAN, I COULDN'T SENSE IT EARLIER... BUT... WITH SYNCH AND CHAMBER ON THE OTHER SIDE --

-- I CAN PSI-TAG THIS MIST AS... SENTIENT?

NOT UNLIKE THE LIFE FORM WE'VE DISCOVERED IN THE BIO-SPERE... ⊗

A SENTIENT MIST? EMMA, IF THE SITUATION WEREN'T SO DIRE, I'D THINK YOU WERE DAFT!

THINK YE CAN CONVINCE IT TO LET YOU AND ME FOLLOW THE LADS?

BUT, Mr. CASSIDY -- WE'RE A TEAM!

M IS RIGHT, MAN.

DON'T EVEN THINK YOU'RE LEAVIN' US BEHIND.

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ALLOW THAT, PEOPLE.

THIS ENTIRE MATTER IS UNDER BLACK AIR'S JURISDICTION.

THUMP

I CAN'T... AUTHORIZE...

C'VILIAN... INTER... V'NTION...

YOU USED YOUR SONIC POWERS TO KNOCK THEM OUT, BANSHEE?

I'M IMPRESSED. I'M NOT USED TO YOU BEING SO... DELICIOUSLY DEVIOUS.

ZZZZ.

ZZZZ.

THE WORD IS "EXPEDIENT", WOMAN.

NOW LISTEN UP, LADS AND LASSIES. I GUESS I CANNAE SEE LEAVIN' THE LOT OF YE HERE TO FACE WHO KNOWS WHAT...

... SO YE ARE COMING WITH US!

YESS!

¡SI!

ALL RIGHT!

BUT...

I EXPECT YE TO LISTEN T'EVERYTHING Ms. FROST AND I SAY -- NO QUESTIONS!

JUST FOR THE RECORD, CHILDREN...

...THIS *MIGHT* NOT WORK!

YOUR *POINT* BEING?

OR MORE *IMPORTANTLY* -- *WHO* ARE YOU CALLING CHILDREN?

ENOUGH TALK, PEOPLE!

UNLESS IT'S T'SAY A *KIND WORD* T'THE PATRON *SAINT O' TRAVEL!*

GONE.

JUST LIKE *BEFORE*, AGENT CASSIDY --

-- YOUR LUCK KNOWS *NO BOUNDS.*

BUT *YOU'LL* RETURN.

YOU *ALWAYS* DO.

JUST LIKE ME.

INTERLUDE

AT THAT MOMENT, HALF A WORLD AWAY...

...ON A SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND NEARLY FOUR THOUSAND MILES SOUTH-WEST OF HAWAII --

-- SITS A TROPICAL PARADISE NESTLED AMONG ISLES NAMED RAROTANGA, AITUTAKI, NIUE, AND, OF COURSE, TOKELAU.

HERE, A YOUNG AMERICAN WOMAN THROWS HERSELF FROM A WATERFALL'S HIGHEST SPIRES --

-- TOTALLY UNCONCERNED WITH SUCH MATTERS AS PANDIMENSIONAL VORTEXES OR ALTERNATE PARALLEL REALITIES.

NO, CORDELIA FROST HAS A MORE IMPORTANT AGENDA...

I'M TELLING YOU, MONDO, IF I RULED THE WORLD --

-- AND WHO'S TO SAY I WON'T SOME-DAY? --

--EVERY DAY WOULD BE AS WONDERFULLY SPLENDIFOROUS AS THIS!

WOULDN'T THAT GET *BORING* AFTER A WHILE?

ALL THIS *SUN*...

... AND *SAND*, AND...

SPWISH

LOS·3·AM

... AND *SOGGINESS?*

'COURSE, IF YOU WERE *RULING* THE WORLD --

-- YOU'D PROBABLY BE *TOO* BUSY TO AQUATICALLY HARASS US *LITTLE PEOPLE.*

THAT, AND YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO... SPEND *HALF* YOUR ... *DAY UNDER-WATER.*

CORDELIA.

HE IS CALLED MONDO.

HE HAS ONLY TWO SETTINGS.

CALM AND CALMER.

AND OCCASIONALLY CONCERN.

SPLOOSH

A YOUNG MAN WHO HAS NEVER TAKEN A STEP OFF THIS ISLAND--

-- MONDO KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING THE POWER OF NATURE.

HE HAD WARNED HIS FRIEND OF THE DANGERS OF THE CURRENTS BENEATH THESE WATERS...

...LET ALONE THE CAVERNS WHICH ABUT THE SHORELINE.

NO SIGN OF HER OUT HERE.

BUT I'D BE SURPRISED IF THE WATER DRAGGED HER THIS FAR--

-- THIS QUICK.

?!

BRZAKT.

EN

INTERLUDE

ELSEPLACE.

WE'RE *HERE*, CHILDREN, WHEREVER *HERE* HAPPENS TO BE.

APPARENTLY, SOMEWHERE WITH A *REALLY STRICT DRESS CODE!* LOOK AT THESE CLOTHES!

ENOUGH WITH THE *WISEQUIPS*, LASS.

FOR ***MOST*** OF YUIR *FELLOW STUDENTS*, THIS IS THE ***FIRST TIME*** THEY'VE ***BEEN*** TO ANOTHER DIMENSION.

CONSIDERING HOW, IN OUR FIRST SEMESTER, WE'VE ALREADY...

... BEEN ATTACKED BY **EMPLATE**, *NEARLY PUREED BY* **PENANCE**, *WENT* **TOE-TO-TOE** *WITH* **ORPHAN MAKER** *AND MIXED IT UP WITH* **GENE NATION**...

... I'D LIKE TO THINK WE'RE HANDLING THINGS ***QUITE WELL***, *MUCHAS GRACIAS!*

TRUE ENOUGH, LAD.

BUT ***STAY SHARP.*** NEAR AS I CAN TELL, WE'RE ON THE ***HIGHEST TURRET*** OF CASSIDY KEEP.

NOT TO BE AS ***RUDE*** AS I'M OFTEN ***ACCUSED*** OF BEING...

GO ON, *MONET.*

I FEEL I SHOULD ***POINT OUT*** A MORE ***IMMEDIATE*** CONCERN.

IF I COULD DIRECT EVERYONE'S ATTENTION ***SKYWARD*** --

-- THE ***STRANGE COLORING*** OF THE ATMOSPHERE WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE A ***LACK OF OXYGEN*** AND AN ***OVERABUNDANCE*** OF...

CUT TO THE CHASE, EGG-HEAD.

WHAT YER ***SAYIN'***, M...

TH BUMP

... IS WE... AIN'T GOT ... ANY ... AIR?

TH BUMP

SAME ELSEPLACE (BUT FARTHER AWAY)...

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE FOLLOWING ANY OF THIS?

ME? I THOUGHT YOU WERE COMPILIN' THE CLIFF'S NOTES.

Whoa!

Look out!

Fight harder.

Get 'em!

You call yourselves heroes?!

ONE MINUTE WE'RE ON MR. CASSIDY'S FAMILY ESTATE--

--THE NEXT WE'RE RISKING OUR LIVES TO AVENGE THE MURDERER I SAW IN THE MIST!

SPLTANG

Ouch!

That must o' hurt! I hope!

AND SHOWING A RUDDY GOOD ACCOUNTING OF OURSELVES IN THE PROCESS.

P.S. SWIPE AT THEIR BREATH TUBES.

AIR SEEMS T'BE AT A PREMIUM HERE.

SPWICK

DIE!

DIE!

READY?

YOU HAVE TO ASK?

RIGHT, THEN... HAVE AT 'EM, SYNCH!

I... I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT!

YER CHOOSE NOW TO ACCUSE ME OF BEIN' UNORIGINAL?

NO... I MEAN...

KICK

KICK

... IT'S AS IF WE'RE IN... PERFECT SYNCH WITH EACH OTHER!

BUT I DON'T GET IT! I USUALLY HAVE TO MENTALLY TRIGGER MY BIO-GENETIC AURA. HOW COME --?!

HOWS - ABOUT WE CHEW THIS OUT LATER, SAY...

... AFTER WE'VE WON?

SEE?! MY AURA IS EVEN MIMICKING YOUR UNIQUE PHYSIOLOGY!

SNAKE

JUST THIS MOMENT, SUN-SHINE..?

...I'M FIVE SHADES OF HAPPY THAT IT WORKED.

'COURSE, IT'D BE NICE IF WE KNEW WHAT WE WAS FIGHTIN' FOR.

?!

WHAT ARE YER --?!

Thank ye, strangers!

All hail! Even me!

Ye've saved us! Saved us all!

WHAT THE --?!

YOU'RE ALL WELCOME, BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN CARRY US?!

Aye!

O'course!

Probably!

BBUM

then again...

Whoa!

SORRY. GUESS US HUMANS ARE A BIT HEAVIER THAN WE LOOK.

Yeah. A bit.

Get off! Get off!

We just wanted to say "thank you!"

YES, YES, YER ALL VERY WELCOME. BUT IF IT'S THE SAME TO YOU... WE'D LIKE TO GO 'OME.

IF ONE OF YER WOULD BE KIND ENOUGH T'POINT US IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION..?

Home?!

No problem! Not even a little one!

Follow us!

THAT WORKED OUT EASY ENOUGH. NOW, IF THEY CAN TELL US WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE WEARING IRISH KILTS?

SCOTTISH. KILTS ARE SCOTTISH.

THE LANDSCAPE IS IRISH.

THE KNIGHTS WORE ENGLISH ARMOR.

YOU YANKS 'AVEN'T GOT A CLUE ABOUT ANYTHING OUTSIDE YER OWN CULTURE.

SCOTTISH? REALLY?

YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERYDAY.

->SIGH<-

NEARBY...

NUDGE

PSST!

... IN A DUNGEON

(YEEEUCH!)

Eh?! EMMA -- WHERE ARE THE KIDS?!

GRRR!

"GRRR"?

BEFORE YOU AND THE ALMIGHTY CHARLES XAVIER CONVINCED ME TO JOIN THIS OUTFIT, CASSIDY --

-- I COULD *COUNT* THE NUMBER OF TIME'S I'D BEEN *BEATEN-UP, SMACKED* AROUND, *TIED DOWN*, BOUND AND OR *CHAINED* TO A WALL ON *NO* FINGERS.

NOW IT SEEMS EVERYTIME I TURN AROUND...

ARE YE *SERIOUS*, WOMAN?!

THE KIDS COULD BE *OUT THERE* ANYWHERE, AND ALL YE *CARE* ABOUT IS *YESELF*?!

AND *WHAT'S* WITH ALL THIS *PANDIMENSIONAL* CRAP?

I WAS WITH THE *HELLFIRE CLUB* FOR *YEARS* AND I NEVER *EVER* HAD TO GO TO INTO A *POCKET* DIMENSION!

"CRAP?"

TELL ME, ARE YOU TWO LIKE THIS *ALL* THE TIME?

Eh..?

... AS I LIVE'N BREATH...

EAMON O'DONNEL!

I'M GLAD TO SEE YE ARE *SAFE!* AND THE *REST* O'THE FAMILIES?

AS *NEAR* AS I KNOW, *MASTER SEAN.*

I AM *NOT* HAPPY.

LAST SEEN IN **UNCANNY X-MEN** #103 -- BANSHEEOPHILE DOB

WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS FREE OUR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN --
-- AND GET BACK TO YOUR CASTLE --
-- BEFORE IT SHIFTS BACK HOME.
OR ELSE THE WHOLE LOT O'US'LL BE TRAPPED HERE FOR THE NEXT THREE HUNDRED YEARS.
I'M PICKING MOSS OUT OF MY PANTIES AND YOU MEAN TO TELL ME --
THIS IS NAE THE PLACE TO HAVE THAT DEBATE, EMMA --
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
CHINK
CLANK
-- NAE WHEN EACH MINUTE WE DAWDLE ABOUT IS CRITICAL.
IT'S THE LAST TIME YE ACCUSE ME OF PLAYING TOO CLOSE TO THE VEST...
SNIFF HUMANS..!
YE WANNA HANDLE THIS?
WITH PLEASURE.

ELSEWHERE... ...IN ELSEPLACE.

SHE IS CALLED GRANDE DAME.

ONCE SHE WAS THE UNDISPUTED QUEEN OF THESE LANDS.

'TIS TIME.

BUT NOW, BOTH SHE AND HER KINGDOM HAVE FALLEN ON HARDER TIMES.

FATE HAS GIVEN HER A CHANCE TO CORRECT ALL THAT.

HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL.

JUST A *PINCH* OF PIXIE DUST.

THE ONLY PROBLEM IS--

-- FAIRIES, LIKE ALL SUPERSTITIOUS CREATURES, DON'T LIKE LEAVING *ANYTHING* TO FATE...

LOOK OUT BELOW!

ANYBODY GET THE LICENSE OF THAT TRUCK?

JUBE WATCH YOUR-- OOMPH-- FOOT.

YOU HAVE COME.
AT LAST.
ONE SEC.
THIS IS ONE PARTY WE *DIDN'T* WANT AN INVITE TO.
WHAT MISS LEE IS SAYING IN HER LESS THAN DELICATE WAY IS --
-- JUST WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
MY *NAME* IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE.
IT IS FOR *MY WORLD* THAT I ONLY HAVE CONCERN.
ONCE THIS LAND WAS LUSH WITH GREEN CLOVER AND GOLDEN SKIES.
BUT, THAT IS ALL LOST TO US NOW --
-- EVEN *THE AIR* WE BREATHE --
-- WITHOUT *GLAMOUR.*
WHO IS GLAMOUR?
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.
I AM TALKING ABOUT *GLAMOUR* ITSELF.
THE... LIFE FORCE FOR ALL FAIRIES AND ELVES AND, WELL, JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING.
IT ENDED THE DAY...

... THAT *THIS* BROKE!

I GUESS YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE IT DOWN TO THE MALL AND *EXCHANGE* IT FOR A NEW ONE?

MONET... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT?

WHAT KIND OF A QUESTION IS THAT?

SINCE WE *GOT* HERE, HAVE YOU SEEN ONE SINGLE THING THAT'S LIKE *ANY-THING* YOU'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE?

BUT... *YOU* ARE THE CHOSEN ONES.

IT IS YOUR *DESTINY* TO RESCUE US.

US?

YOU MUST MEAN, LIKE, SOME *OTHER* CHOSEN ONES.

THERE'S *NO* MISTAKE!

THIS SCROLL IS *OLD* AS THE LAND ITSELF!

SEE FOR YOUR-SELVES.

AND TO THEIR UTTER AMAZEMENT...

...WHAT THE FAIRY QUEEN SAYS IS TRUE.

SO, IT IS WRITTEN.

HOLD IT UP, CHICA.

SO, IT SHALL BE.

YOU CAN'T CON A CON MAN.

THIS "SCROLL" ONLY LOOKS LIKE US --

-- 'CAUSE YOU HAD IT PAINTED THIS MORNING WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED!

THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE.

YOU DON'T THINK I WOULD STOOP TO SOMETHING SO --

-- SO, DEVIOUS AND UNDER-HANDED --

DO YOU?

OKAY.

SO, I LIED.

OLD HABITS DIE HARD.

BUT, YOU'RE THE *FIRST NEWCOMERS* TO VENTURE INTO OUR WORLD FOR *CENTURIES.*

I THINK THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD ARGUMENT TO GET YOU TO FIX OUR GLAMOUR MACHINE.

SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY?

WHAT *CAN* WE SAY?

NONE OF US WOULD EVEN KNOW HOW TO *BEGIN* TO HELP YOU.

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU EVEN KEPT THE INSTRUCTION BOOK --

M?

EARTH TO MONET.

TERRIFIC. SHE'S SPACED ON US AGAIN. ⊗

⊗SHE DID IT IN **GEN X** #5 — DR. BOB PHD.

THIS IS GETTING TO BE LIKE *WHACKED.*

ON THE CONTRARY.

AT LEAST *ONE* OF YOU HAS THE STUFF OF HEROES.

EVEN IF I *DIDN'T* TAKE *OFFENSE* AT THAT REMARK --

-- I SEE NOW WE HAVEN'T A CHOICE BUT TO HELP.

IF FOR NO OTHER REASON, WE DON'T WANT MONET TO GET HURT IN HER CURRENT STATE.

SWELL.

I DON'T REMEMBER *STORM* EVER *EVER* GOING CATATONIC WHEN THE X-MEN NEEDED HER.

TAP TAP

SOME-BODY'S AT THE DOOR.

YOU GONNA GET THAT?

BE A DEAR, AND OPEN IT, WON'T YOU?

TAP TAP

I DON'T WANT TO MISS ONE *GLORIOUS* MOMENT OF OUR GLAMOUR MACHINE BEING FIXED!

ALL RIGHT, ALREADY. KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON.

TAP TAP TAP

Ulp.

ONE QUESTION, BAG O'FLESH:

WHO'S BEEN MESSING AROUND WITH TH' FLIPPIN' GLAMOUR MACHINE?!

NEXT

Blue Hearts, Yellow Stars & Lucky Charms!

MARVEL COMICS

NOVEMBER

X-MEN DELUXE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

X-GENERATION

A World is about to Die --

-- and only the Boy called

CHAMBER

can Stop it!

™

9

AS NAIVE AS IT SOUNDS, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN ANGELO ESPINOSA BELIEVED HE'D "SEEN IT ALL."

RAISED ON THE MEAN STREETS OF SOUTH CENTRAL L.A. --

-- CARJACKINGS, MUGGINGS AND GANG INITIATIONS WERE AS MUCH A PART OF LIFE AS THE SUN AND THE CLOUDS IN THE SKY.

AT AGE SIXTEEN, HE'D ALREADY THOUGHT HE WAS PAST THE POINT OF BEING SURPRISED... BY ANYTHING.

THAT WAS BEFORE HE JOINED GENERATION X

IF YOU DON'T MOVE -- NOW -- I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU.

SOONER THAN LATER.

REMEMBER THE FIRST RULE OF THE 'HOOD, ANGELO...

... RELAX.

AND IF I DO MOVE, DUDE?

THEN I KILL YOU, QUICKLY.

Stan Lee Presents

Someplace Other Than Here

Scott Lobdell — Writer
Tom Grummett — Penciler
Mark Buckingham and Al Milgrom — Inkers
Richard Starkings and Comicraft — Lettering
Steve Buccellato and Electric Crayon — Colors
Bob Harras — Editor

SINCE DISCOVERING HE HAD THE UNWANTED GENETIC ABILITY TO GROW AND MANIPULATE MORE SKIN THAN HE NEEDS --

-- ANGELO WAS CONVINCED TO ENROLL AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YONGSTERS, A PRIVATE TRAINING ACADEMY FOR YOUNG MUTANTS.

SURE, HE'D ASSUMED THERE'D BE THE OCCASIONAL BATTLE WITH THE PHALANX OR EMPLATE.

ONCE IN A WHILE, VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS WITH UNSYMPATHETIC MUTAPHOBIC HUMANS COULD BE EXPECTED.

THE NEED FOR FLAT OUT SUPER HEROICS WAS ALSO A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY.

BUT IF TRUTH CAME TO SHOVE...

... "FIREBREATHING DRAGONS IN PARALLEL DIMENSIONS POPULATED BY FAIRIES, TROLLS AND ELVES" WAS NOWHERE ON THE FRESHMAN SEMESTER SYLLABUS.

LOOK, KID -- I'M TRYING TO CUT YOU SOME SCALE BECAUSE YOU AIN'T FROM AROUND HERE...

...BUT I RULE THESE PARTS, I HAVE EVER SINCE THE GLAMOUR MACHINE BROKE A CENTURY OR TWO BACK.

SO, YER EITHER WITH ME... OR AGAINST ME.

UN MOMENTO, POR FAVOR.

STOP.

REWIND.

WHERE I COME FROM, IT'S ALL JUST STRAIGHT AHEAD FOG. I'M STILL UNCLEAR ABOUT THIS WHOLE "GLAMOUR MACHINE" RIFF.

AND WHILE YOU'RE GROWLING, AMIGO, MAYBE YOU WON'T HEAR MY KNEES BANGING TOGETHER.

WHAT WAS IT MY *GRANDMOTHER* USED TO SAY?

"*WHEN IN DOUBT -- TRY CHUTZPAH!*"

IT'S LIKE *THIS*, *AMIGO*...

... ME AND MY *POSSE* DIDN'T *ASK* TO COME HERE.

FACT IS, WE'RE SEARCHING FOR *CHAMBER* AND *SYNCH* WHO GOT *YANKED* THROUGH.

ME? I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHATEVER *CUSHY POWER GIG* YOU GOT *GOING*.

BUT MY FRIENDS? *THAT'S* A DIFFERENT STORY.

THEY'VE AGREED TO *HELP* REBUILD THE SO-CALLED *GLAMOUR MACHINE*.

AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO *ME* TO MAKE SURE THEY GET THEIR CHANCE.

¿COMPRENDE?

YOU?!

ME.

STOP *ME?*

STOP YOU.

HA HO HA

HA HO HA HO HA HO HA

SO MUCH FOR THE *MACHO HERMANO* RIFF.

I'M GOING TO GET A SWORD.

OR SOMETHING.

CREEEAK

PSSST.

HEY?

HEY, SEÑORITA!

-SIGH-

ISN'T IT... LOVERLY?

NO...

... TO BE HONEST, IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A *MOUNTAIN* OF *RUST.*

Hee hee. "*SKIN*", ISN'T IT?

THE GLAMOUR MACHINE IS *MUCH MORE* THAN THAT! FOR *CENTURIES* IT WAS THE *HEART* AND *SOUL* OF OUR *MYSTICAL* KINGDOM.

UNTIL IT BROKE.

WHILE YOU *CLEARLY* LACK THE VISION *NECESSARY* TO SEE IT AS IT IS --

-- YOUR *FELLOW TRAVELER M* APPARENTLY BELIEVES SHE CAN BE OF *HELP* IN *MAKING REPAIRS.*

DID SHE ACTUALLY *SAY* THAT, *GRANDE DAME?*

NO. NOT *EXACTLY.*

BUT SHE'S BEEN DOING A *LOT* OF *STARING.*

GREAT. *YOU* STARE AT HER STARING.

I GOT SOME *FIRE BREATHING* DRAGON BREATHING DOWN MY NECK.

WHA -- ?! HE'S *HERE?!*

OUTSIDE THE GATE?!

HEY, *PAIGE -- LOOK!* IT'S *ANGELO.*

MAYBE *HE* CAN HELP US GET THIS THING UP AND RUNNING *SOONER* THAN LATER?

MAYBE. BUT IF HE ISN'T UP HERE *HELPING, JUBILEE,* CHANCES ARE HE HAS HIS HANDS FULL SOMEWHERE ELSE.

MAYBE AGAIN.

THAT, OR HE'S JUST *SLACKING.*

YO, ANGE?!

IT'S AS I EXPLAINED EARLIER, ANGELO -- WHILE THE GLAMOUR MACHINE IS *BROKEN,* EVERYTHING IS... *DRAB.* LIFELESS. *WITHOUT* MEANING.

WITH EVEN THE AIR LEADEN FROM THE *EFFORT* OF *FLYING,* THE *FLAME* FROM THE *DRAGON'S BREATH* HOLDS GREAT DANGER FOR *ALL* OF US.

HIS FLAME LITERALLY *"EATS"* THE AIR AROUND US.

SO YOU'RE SAYING HE'S...

...HE'S A *BULLY.*

GREAT. DRAGONS I HAVE *NO EXPERIENCE* WITH --

-- BUT *BULLIES? MAMA ESPINOSA* DIDN'T BRING UP A *SINGLE ONE* OF HER KIDS TO *EVER* BACK DOWN FROM A BULLY.

YOUR MOTHER SOUNDS LIKE A *VERY SMART* WOMAN.

THAT, OR SHE RAISED SOME *VERY STUPID* CHILDREN.

BE *RIGHT* BACK.

YOUR... SWORD?

"YOUR SWORD" WHAT?

YOUR SWORD, BOY -- YOU SAID YOU WENT INSIDE TO GET A SWORD OR SOMETHING.

LIKE THAT'D HELP!

FACE IT, ANGE -- IF YOU'RE GOING TO *FLUSH* THIS *HOMBRE*, IT'S GOING TO MEAN BEIN' *MUY CREATIVE.*

SI. A SWORD.

RIGHT.

BE *WITH* YOU IN A MINUTE.

BWAH!HAHAHAHA!

STOP IT! YER KILLING ME, BOY!

YOU *SLAY* ME!

THAT'S THE PLAN, *AMIGO*...

... THAT'S THE PLAN!

WERE SHE TO **TALK**, *THE YOUNG WOMAN KNOWN AS* **PENANCE** *MIGHT ADMIT SHE IS, QUITE FRANKLY,* **NOT** *FOLLOWING* **ANY** *OF THIS.*

BUT IN THE **BRIEF** *TIME SHE'S BEEN* **WITH** *THE OTHER MUTANTS OF* **GENERATION X**...

... *SHE IS SLOWLY LEARNING TO* **TRUST.**

ELSEWHERE... DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE CASTLE CASSIDY KEEP...

ALL I'M SAYIN', WOMAN...

EMMA.

ALL I'M SAYIN', EMMA, IS THAT YE *DIDNAE* HAVETA TURN OFF THE POOR TROLL'S *MIND* -- EVEN TEMPORARILY!

BANSHEE, HOW IS THAT *ANY DIFFERENT* FROM YOU PUTTING THE *BLACK AIR* TECHS TO SLEEP SO THEY COULDN'T *PREVENT* US FROM *INVESTIGATING* YOUR DIMENSIONALLY DISPLACED CASTLE?

'TIS *VERY* DIFFERENT. I DIDNAE WANT TO SEE THEM GET *HURT* IF THEY TRIED TO *STOP US* FROM TRACKING DOWN *CHAMBER* AND *SYNCH.*

AND I *DID* WHAT I DID, *FOOL* THAT I AM, TO SEE THAT *YOU* DIDN'T GET HURT.

IF ANYONE IS *APOLOGIZING* FOR *ANYTHING*, I THINK *YOU* OWE ME AND THE KIDS FOR *DRAGGING US* HERE TO THIS POCKET DIMENSION IN THE *FIRST* PLACE.

LAST ISSUE -BOB

I *DO* REGRET THAT THE REST OF YE GOT *INVOLVED...*

... BUT I 'M *NOT* ASHAMED OF ME FAMILY'S *HERITAGE.*

FOR *CENTURIES* NOW, WE'VE BEEN PATRONS T'THE *CLAN O'DONNEL* AND --

-- AND *WHAT*, SEAN?! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT *THEIR LIVES* AT THE RISK OF OUR *STUDENTS'?*

DON'T *PUSH* IT, WOMAN.

FINE.

FINE.

GOOD.

GOOD.

LET'S FIND THE *KIDS* AND GO HOME!

DEAL.

BUT SINCE WE *ARE* HERE, I THINK WE CAN FIND TIME TO SAVE THE *ELVES* FROM THE REIGN O' OPPRESSION UNDER THE *FAIRIES* AND *TROLLS* AND THE *DRAGON.*

WILL YE TWO *STOP IT?*

I'M *TELLIN'* YE, YUIR MAKIN' ME BLEATIN' *EYES BLEED* WIT' ALL Y'*FUSSIN'* AND *FEUDIN'!*

NOW ARE YE GONNA *HELP* US, OR NOT?!

NO ONE SAID *ANYTHING* ABOUT NOT

OF COURSE WE'LL HELP YOU AND THE

YE THINK WE'D FEED YE TO TH' WOLVES WITHOUT SO MUCH AS

WE'RE NOT *TOTALLY* HEARTLESS!

ACCH, HUMANS!

YE TWO *DESERVE* EACH OTHER!

SEAN, NEXT TIME CHARLES XAVIER TRIES TO CONVINCE ME TO HELP, I WANT YOU TO REMIND ME OF...

HMP?

WHAT *IS* IT, EMMA?

I'M... *SENSING* SOMETHING UP AHEAD!

YEEAARRGH!

EAMON?!

EMMA -- LOOK OUT!

I'M LOOKING.

KKRACKKT

UGLY UGLY HUMANS -- POKING NOSES WHERE NO NOSES BELONG!

FAIRIES NEED ELVEN FAMILIES TO MANUALLY RUN GLAMOUR MACHINE!

RESCUE FAMILIES -- RUIN US ALL!

EMMA, YE ARE WELCOME TO TAKE THIS *BEASTIE* DOWN WIT' YE *PSIONIC* POWERS.

NOT LIKELY!

WHAT ARE YE SAYING?!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CRITICIZED ME *LAST TIME* I TOOK *DOWN* A TROLL!

THIS ONE'S *ALL* YOURS AND YOUR *SONIC SCREAM*, BANSHEE!

NEARBY...

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

YOU TOLD CHAMBER AND ME THAT YOU WOULD *TAKE* US *HOME..?*

And so we have!

This IS home-glorious-home!

OUR home!

SYNCH AND I MEANT... **OUR** HOME.

We KNEW that... we're not Trolls, after all.

But surely ye won't leave wit'out rescuin' the O'Donnel Clan?

AND **THEN** WHAT, GUV'NOR?

RIGHT NOW, WE DON'T... EVEN **KNOW** IF... WE CAN GET **BACK**... TO OUR WORLD.

Just like us?

DON'TCHA TRY **SICKING** THE **WAIF** ON ME...

... IT **WON'T** WORK.

SEE THE GAPIN' **HOLE** IN ME **CHEST**..?

I DON'T HAVE A HEART T'TRY'N **BREAK**.

But PLEASE, sir.

You -snif- -snif- HAVE to help us.

JONO, EXPLAIN TO THEM WE'RE ***STUDENTS*** -- NOT SUPER HEROES.

AND ***FRESHMEN*** AT THAT.

EVERETT IS RIGHT, GEL -- THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO...

... WAY WE ARE...

... EVEN IN A POST --

THAT IS, WE JUST...

-SIGH-

SURE. WE'LL HELP.

Thanks.

Umm, JONO?

CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE, PARTNER?

RIGHT.

LOOK -- I DON'T LIKE TO SEE ANYONE SUFFER, EITHER, BUT FRANKLY WE MIGHT BE JUST A BIT OVER OUR HEADS HERE!

WE'RE WHO KNOWS HOW FAR AWAY FROM HOME IN A STRANGE WORLD WHERE WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE WHO IS FIGHTING FOR WHAT.

TRUE.

SO?

EEEEEEEEEE

HUH?!

Airborne!

Incoming!

Surrender Dorothy!

EEEEEEEEEE

BANSHEE?

BANSHEE.

SOUND IS COMIN' FROM... THE OTHER SIDE... OF THE WALL.

LET'S SEE IF OUR TEACHER... CAN USE A HAND.

I'LL SYNCH MY AURA TO YOUR PSIONIC BLAST.

"-- AND WE'LL ROCK!"

EEEEEEEEEEE

EAMON'S UNCONSCIOUS, SEAN, BUT OTHERWISE HE'S FINE.

ACCCH... YE *DO* CARE ABOUT SOMEONE OTHER THAN YESELF, WOMAN?

SBLAM

->ULP<-

SKRRUNCH

WHA -- THE *ENTIRE CEILIN'* IS CAVIN' IN!

SAINTS BE PRAISED.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO *HUG* THEM OR *KICK* THEIR LITTLE BUTTS BACK TO MASSA-CHUSETTS.

'OW ABOUT... NEITHER.

OVER THERE...

ALRIGHT, KID -- NOW YER STARTING TO ANNOY ME!

¡¿QUE?! LIKE I'M ENJOYING MYSELF?!

ACTUALLY, THOUGH, I THINK I'M DOING PRETTY GOOD... CONSIDERING THAT WITH ALL THE SHOOTINGS AND STABBINGS AND DRIVE-BYS THAT WERE EVERYDAY LIFE IN MY HOOD...

MY EXPERIENCES BATTLING DRAGONS HAVE BEEN, WELL... NADA.

YOU KNOW, I MIGHT HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU IN MY ORGANI-ZATION...

...AFTER I TRAMPLE GRANDE DAME ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THANKS, BUT NO.

I ALREADY GOT A GIG...

...IT'S KICKING DRAGON BUTT!

SHE UNDERSTANDS SHE SHOULD HELP.

IF SHE KNEW THE WORDS, SHE MIGHT EVEN ASK HERSELF... HOW?

THE MACHINE...

IT'S *OFFICIAL:*

I'M *WORRIED* ABOUT HER.

PAIGE, THIS AIN'T THE *FIRST TIME* SHE'S DONE THIS.

IT'S LIKE, *EVERY* TIME SHE NEEDS TO THINK HARD, SHE LIKE... SHUTS OUT *EVERYTHING* ELSE.

IT *CAN'T* BE HEALTHY.

CAREFUL, THERE, JUBILEE -- PEOPLE ARE GOING TO GET THE IMPRESSION YOU TWO ACTUALLY *CARE* ABOUT EACH OTHER.

A BIG OLE SOUTHERN FRIED "*DUH,*" PAIGE!

OF *COURSE* I CARE ABOUT HER.

IS IT *MY* FAULT SHE'S SO... ABRASIVE?

HEY, *WHERE* YA GOIN'?!

I MEANT "*ABRASIVE*" IN A *NICE* WAY.

YOU DON'T THINK IT HAS SOMETHIN' TO DO WITH THE *PRESSURE,* DO YA?

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE ANY OF THE *REST* O'YA HAVE GOT *ANY EXPERIENCE* WITH THIS SORT OF ADVENTURE.

I THINK IT HAS MORE TO DO WITH HER TRYING TO CONCENTRATE ON GETTING THIS THING UP AND RUNNING.

IN FACT, I *MIGHT* BE ABLE TO GET THIS OPEN...

... IF I *IMPROVISE.*

SHRRRIPP

CAN'T YOU, LIKE, FIND A PHONE BOOTH IF YER GONNA CHANGE LIKE THAT?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE REFERENCE.

I FORGOT, YOU DON'T *READ* COMICS. YOU SPEND ALL YER TIME *STUDYING.*

I'M HOPING THAT BY *STUDYING* CHEMISTRY, I'LL BETTER UNDERSTAND THE COMPOUNDS NECESSARY TO TRANSMUTE MY BODY DURING THE *"HUSKING"* PROCESS.

SO *WHAT* DO YOU THINK?

DOES THE TERM *"SHOW OFF"* MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

URRMP

I MAY BE *RESILIENT* ENOUGH RIGHT NOW TO WORK FREE THIS DOOR...

...BUT I COULD USE A *HAND* WITH THE RUST.

SURE THING, HUSK.

ONE TOTALLY RAD *PYROTECHNIC* DISPLAY COMING UP...

PIP

PIP

POP

PIP

POP

RRREENT

TEAM WORK. YOU HAVE TO *LOVE* IT.

SPLENDID, SPLENDID.

Yeah!

Yippee!

We're halfway there!

HMM?

I'LL BE...

IF IT WEREN'T SO *UNDIGNIFIED*... I'D *HUG* YOU *BOTH!*

AY. YE WILL BE FREE, JUBILEE...

...ONCE WE PUT THE *GRAND DAME* HERE OUT O'THE BUSINESS O' TERRORIZING THE ELF KIN.

BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, CASSIDY -- ONCE THE MACHINE IS *FIXED*...

...WE CAN ALL LIVE IN *PEACE* AGAIN.

Great!

Wonderful!

Can't wait!

Equal pay for equal work!

DO YE MIND?!

Sorry.

WE'RE TRYIN' TO *LIBERATE* YE WEE PEOPLE, AND 'TIS DIFFICULT TO DO SO WHEN YUIR *CHEERIN'* T'HIGH HEAVEN!

FOR *SHAME*, BANSHEE. THE LITTLE PEOPLE ARE *RIGHT* TO CHEER!

ONCE THE GLAMOUR MACHINE IS *UP* AND *RUNNING* --

WHAT?!

I'M AFRAID THAT *MIGHT NOT* BE POSSIBLE.

I APOLOGIZE, BUT... THERE'S NOTHING *MORE* I CAN DO.

HERE...

BR BU MP

"C'MON, ANGELO -- JOIN GENERATION X!"

"LEARN ABOUT YOUR POWERS!"

"GRADUATE AND EVENTUALLY BECOME AN X-MAN!"

WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, KID?!

NUTHIN'. BUT IF I EVER SEE DOCTOR HANK McCOY AGAIN...

... REMIND ME TO PUNCH HIM IN HIS BLUE FURRED NOSE, EH?

NOT A CONSIDER-ATION...

BECAUSE IN ABOUT THREE SECONDS...

... YER TOAST!

AND I GET TO RULE EVERYTHING!

TWO SECONDS LATER...

... PENANCE FINDS A CREATIVE USE FOR THE DIAMOND HARD SKIN THAT HAS, UNTIL NOW, BEEN THE BANE OF HER EXISTENCE.

PNK

THE PROBLEM ISN'T WITH THE *GLAMOUR MACHINE* ANY MORE.

I FIXED *THAT.*

IT'S JUST THAT LACK OF A *POWER SOURCE* THAT'S KEEPING IT FROM *RUNNING* NOW.

I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS, I ONLY DID *HALF* THE JOB.

HOW ABOUT ME *SONIC POWER?*

NO. *TOO PHYSICAL.*

MY *PSIONIC POWER?*

NO. TOO... *IMPURE.*

CHAMBER..?

JONO, YA AIN'T THINKIN' WHAT I *THINK* YER THINKIN', ARE YA?

PROB'LY.

Thank you.

NO PROB, SUNSHINE.

COVER FOR ME?

ALWAYS.

C'MON, KID.

MAYBE WE CAN USE *SOME* OF THE ELVES AS *KINDLING?*

WOMAN!

NOT *ALL* OF THEM. BUT THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF --

KKLANG

WHA -- ?!

TRUST ME, EVERYBODY -- *TAKE COVER!*

JUBILEE -- ?! WHAT IS IT, LASS?!

NOT *WHAT,* BANSHEE... *WHO!*

AND BELIEVE IT OR *NOT,* THE ANSWER IS --

SO IT *IS*, LASS... SO IT IS.

NOW THE NEXT THING I WANT T'KNOW IS...

... JUST ***HOW MUCH*** POWER DOES THIS LAD ***HAVE*** AT HIS DISPOSAL?

AND FOR ***THAT*** MATTER, HOW CAN WE BE SURE HE'S NOT DONE AS MUCH ***DAMAGE*** T'HIS ***POOR BODY*** AS HE'S ***LIKELY*** TO?

-- IT'S ***CHAMBER!***

JONO..?

S'TELL ME, GOV'NOR...

... HOW'D I DO?

NOT BEING OF THE *FAIRY KINGDOM* MYSELF, I CAN'T SAY...

... BUT I THINK THE *GENERAL CONSENSUS* IS YOU'VE *SAVED* THE DAY!

LOOK, YOU CAN SEE IT! *GLAMOUR!*

GLORIOUS GLAMOUR *INGRATIATING* ITSELF, INFUSING ITSELF IN OUR *EVERY PORE!*

EVERY-THING -- OUR *LIFE'S BLOOD* -- GLAMOROUS AGAIN!

You saved us!

All hail everybody!

Oh, glorious day!

YO, *GUTHRIE* -- ARE ALL THESE ELVES *CELEBRATING* THE DRAGON I *ACED* OUT?

PLEASE, ANGELO -- ARE YOU THAT INSECURE YOU HAVE TO RAIN ON JONO'S PARADE?

-SIGH-

WELL, *WE* KNOW WHAT *WE* DID... *RIGHT*, PENANCE?

I MEAN... RIGHT?

THAT NIGHT...

ALL THINGS *CONSIDERED*, BANSHEE --

-- I THINK WE DID *GREAT* ON OUR FIRST "*POP QUIZ*".

I *AGREE*, LASS.

BUT *WHERE'S* M... AND MS. FROST?

WILL THEY BE BACK BEFORE THE CASTLE AUTOMATICALLY RETURNS TO OUR WORLD AT SUNRISE?

NOT T'*WORRY*, PAIGE --

"-- THEY'LL BE ALONG *SHORTLY*... "

MONET, CONSIDERING WE *WON*... I THINK YOU'RE TAKING OUR VICTORY A LITTLE *POORLY*.

BECAUSE, MS. FROST, IT IS ALL A MATTER OF *PERSPECTIVE*.

M, CHAMBER *COULDN'T* HAVE DONE IT *WITHOUT* YOU.

WE ALL *REALIZE* THAT.

PLEASE, MS. FROST...

... FOR REASONS I *CAN'T EXPLAIN* JUST NOW, I... HOLD *VERY* HIGH STANDARDS FOR MYSELF.

I DON'T THINK I COULD *BEAR* THE THOUGHT OF YOU FEELING *SORRY* FOR ME.

YOU MISUNDERSTOOD ME, CHILD --

-- I *NEVER* WOULD.

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THE DEATH WAIL OF... THE BANSHEE!

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EDITORIAL

If you've picked up this magazine, you're witnessing evolution. Not a bunch of copy-cats Xeroxing and rehashing existing concepts, trying to pass them off as "the next great thing." This is a genuine evolutionary leap in several exciting ways.

About thirty years ago, the students at Xavier's filed into the school — fashionably dressed in preppie suits and ties — and proceeded to make history. Somehow two guys, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, who had been in the comics biz for more than twenty years, had come up with a concept so fresh and innovative that it changed the course of their world. Think that's overstatement? Count how many characters, from a bunch of different comics companies, claim to be mutants (or some synonym thereof).

On this page and the previous— Chris Bachalo's concept sketches for the Preview cover, so exciting we *had to* make it a wraparound!

But then, evolution's what it's all about, isn't it. A group appears on the scene and, if it's strong enough to survive beyond its formative stage, it learns to thrive and diversify. It may even become the dominant species, but in order to do so, it has to *continue* to adapt to an ever-changing environment.

The X-Men are the originals, and over the years they've had to do a *lot* of adapting. From "The Uncanny X-Men", to "The All-New, All-Different X-Men", to "The New Mutants", and so on, they've continued to be the state of the art. And now, in this very tumultuous period in comic book history, they have to *continue* to adapt. Luckily for them, and for the reader, they thrive on challenge.

GENERATION X is quite probably *the* next big evolutionary leap. Lots of folks have been trying to create the heroes for the coming millennium — or they've been trying to *convince* you that they have — but it looks as though Scott Lobdell and Chris Bachalo, both fresh talents on the comics scene, have really got the ball rolling.

But evolution doesn't stop there. A thriving species has to continue to evolve in a plethora of exciting and different directions. And that's why this magazine doesn't stop with Generation X. The entire X-Universe is poised on the edge of a dramatic change and we're here in our exclusive seats, ready to bear witness. There are a lot of complex forces at work, and nothing is sacred; the X-folks are trying out different formats and new characters, and for the end of 1994 they have in store a plot twist *so bizarre* that we're not going to address that until December.

Suffice to say, it'll be one of the most exciting rides at the amusement park. So strap yourselves in. It's time to start.

— *Steve Saffel*

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The Massachusetts Academy —a division of The Xavier Institute

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The Massachusetts Academy

Devoted to a vision of excellence in education and personal maturation, *The Xavier Institute For Higher Learning* exists to help you defy the hasty classification by which many mutants are stigmatized. Being born with an X-Factor chromosome has not only made you a mutant — *it has made you unique.* Yet, as a citizen of an often harsh and unforgiving world, your uniqueness is often overlooked due to ignorant prejudices. In the blind eyes of fear, the few are indicative of the many, and the many are misrepresented by the few.

Thanks to the detrimental actions of a select number of mutants, the entire group suffers for their sins. This suffering will continue as long as the division between humans and mutants is exacerbated by naive, sometimes malicious persons who do not take into account the consequences of their own decisions. Those who choose to ignore their responsibilities as mutants — *as human beings* — do the world a great disservice, and society will continue to reel agonizingly from the effects.

Fortunately, there are others who accept their global responsibility. For them, we are all grateful.

Which will you choose to be? Will your own, conscientious deeds speak volumes? What does your mutant gift mean to you? Is it a blessing? A curse? The answers to these questions won't be found in textbooks and training rooms — they will be found within you. *As a student here at The Academy, you will determine the outcome. You are the catalyst for future change. You* are the X-Factor.

On behalf of myself and our exceptional staff of instructors, I welcome you to the ivy-covered halls of *The Massachusetts Academy.*

Mutatis Mutandis,
Professor Charles Francis Xavier, Ph.D.

FOUNDATIONS:

A Brief History of *The Massachusetts Academy*

Nestled in the sprawling Berkshire Mountains of Snow Valley, Massachusetts, *The Massachusetts Academy* was founded in 1700 as a boarding school for children of early American colonial gentry. Since then, it has provided the elite an opportunity to educate their offspring in an environment of global culture. The matriculating student was spared no expense in his or her enrollment at The Academy — a fact which made the school an attractive place to which the social, political, and economic upper echelon might dispatch privileged sons and daughters.

As the years have passed, there have been changes in the institution's infrastructure which have altered its academic climate. The most significant alteration was

made by an exclusive social club with as stately a foundation as The Academy itself — the infamous Hellfire Club. The Club's acquisition of this institution was a landmark event in education. Upon her appointment as chairperson to the school's board of trustees, the Club's reigning "White Queen," Emma Frost, became its headmistress and began recruiting adolescents with *specific* qualities. Despite The Academy's long-standing tradition of catering only to the rich and famous, Frost's trainees were gifted neither financially, politically nor socially.

They were gifted *genetically.*

Christened "The Hellions," these teenagers were her alternative to a new group of mutants being trained at that time by Professor Charles Xavier. Once fully trained in the use of their abilities, they would serve The Hellfire Club. Due to conflicts of moral interest, inevitable clashes occurred between The Hellions and Xavier's pupils — with little or no consequence.

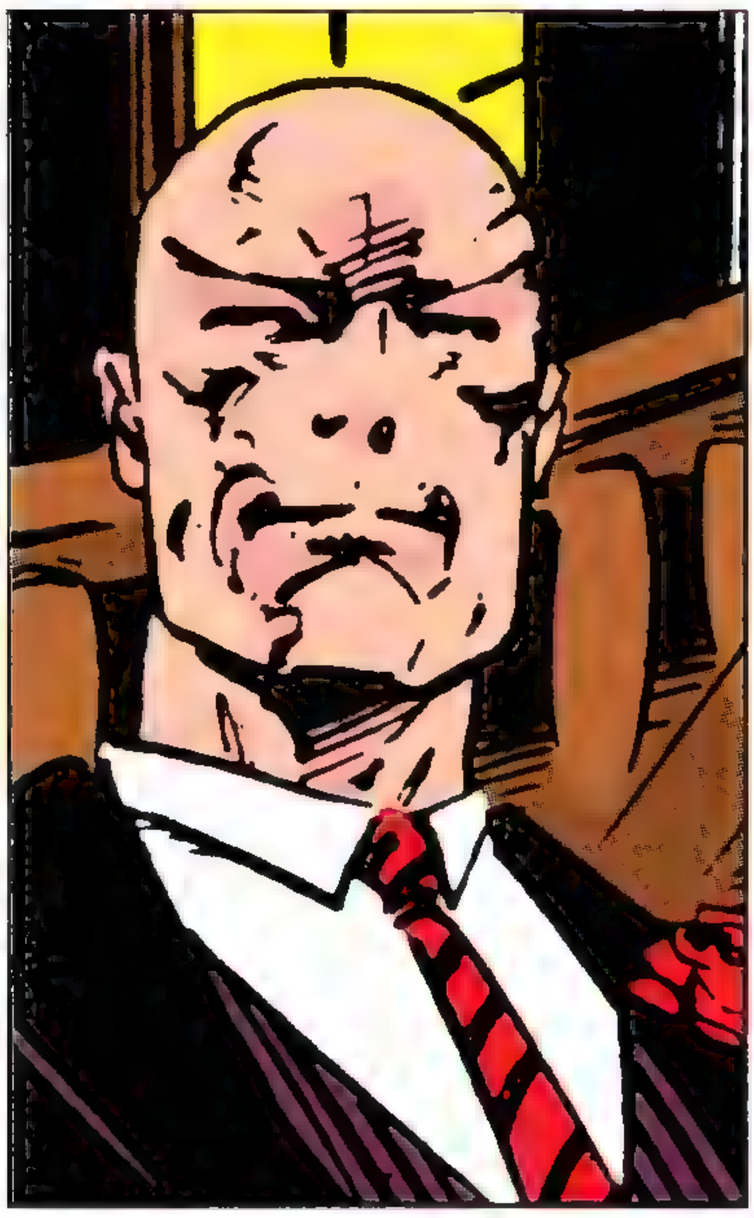
Eventually Xavier's former students, The X-Men, *joined* with The Hellions to protect the White Queen from a time-traveling attacker known as Trevor Fitzroy, but not before Fitzroy's brutal assault plunged Frost into a deep coma and brought about the untimely demise of each and every one of The Hellions.

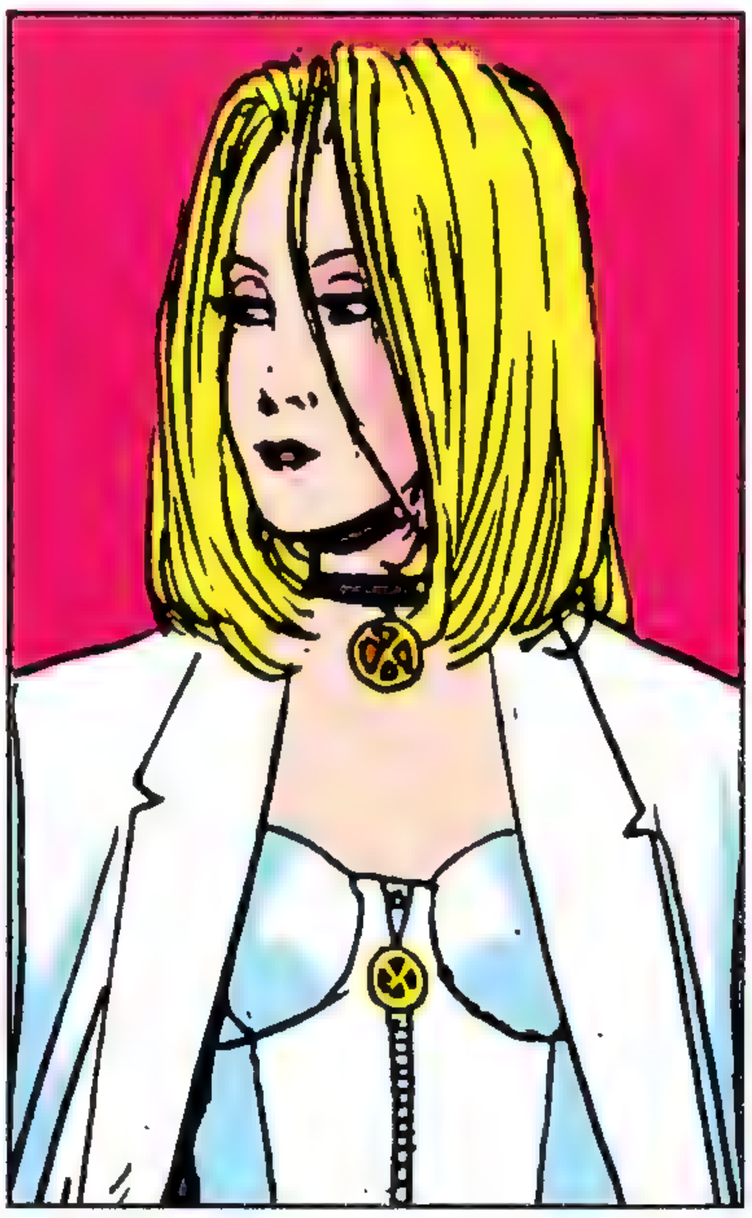
It is to their memory — and that of all other mutants who have died senselessly — that this school dedicates its efforts to make the future a brighter place for humanity and mutantkind alike.

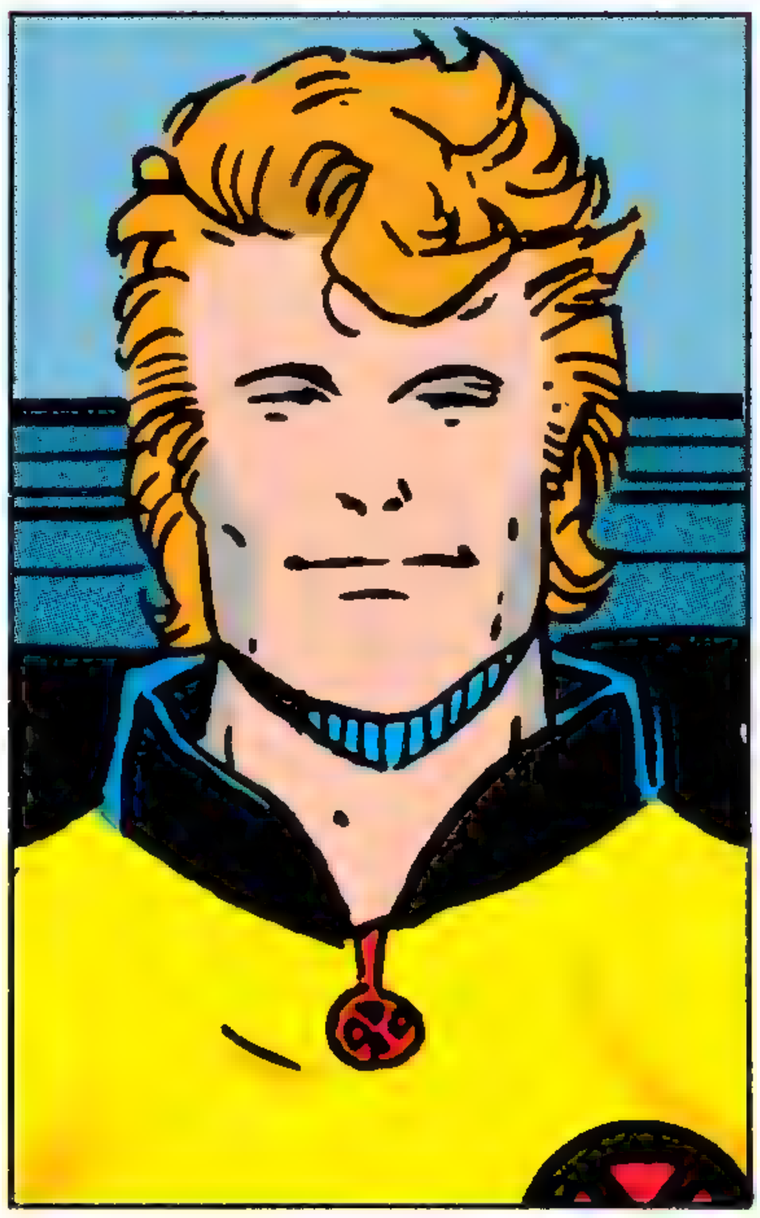
EVOLUTION: Into The 21st Century. . .and Beyond

Seeking to insure the welfare of her students and the future of the school, Emma Frost foresightedly willed the care of The Academy to Professor Charles Xavier. It was during her psychic incapacitation that *The Massachusetts Academy* was legally addended to the rapidly-expanding *Xavier Institute.* The hope that the lessons which she had begun to impart on the impressionable minds of young mutant charges — lessons that would influence the lives of mutants in the generations to come — has been coupled with a *passion* to see relations between humans and mutants mature into mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

FACULTY PROFILES







PROFESSOR CHARLES FRANCIS XAVIER, Ph. D.

A Nobel Prize-winning geneticist — and the world's most powerful telepath — Professor Charles Francis Xavier has earned the respect and admiration of the scientific community for his study of the catalyzing agent of advanced genetic mutations, the "X-Factor" chromosome. In order to further his research and to teach young mutants to deal with their blossoming powers, Xavier founded the Westchester County, New York-based *School For Gifted Youngsters,* originally a modest educational center which has since evolved into the internationally recognized *Xavier Institute For Higher Learning.*

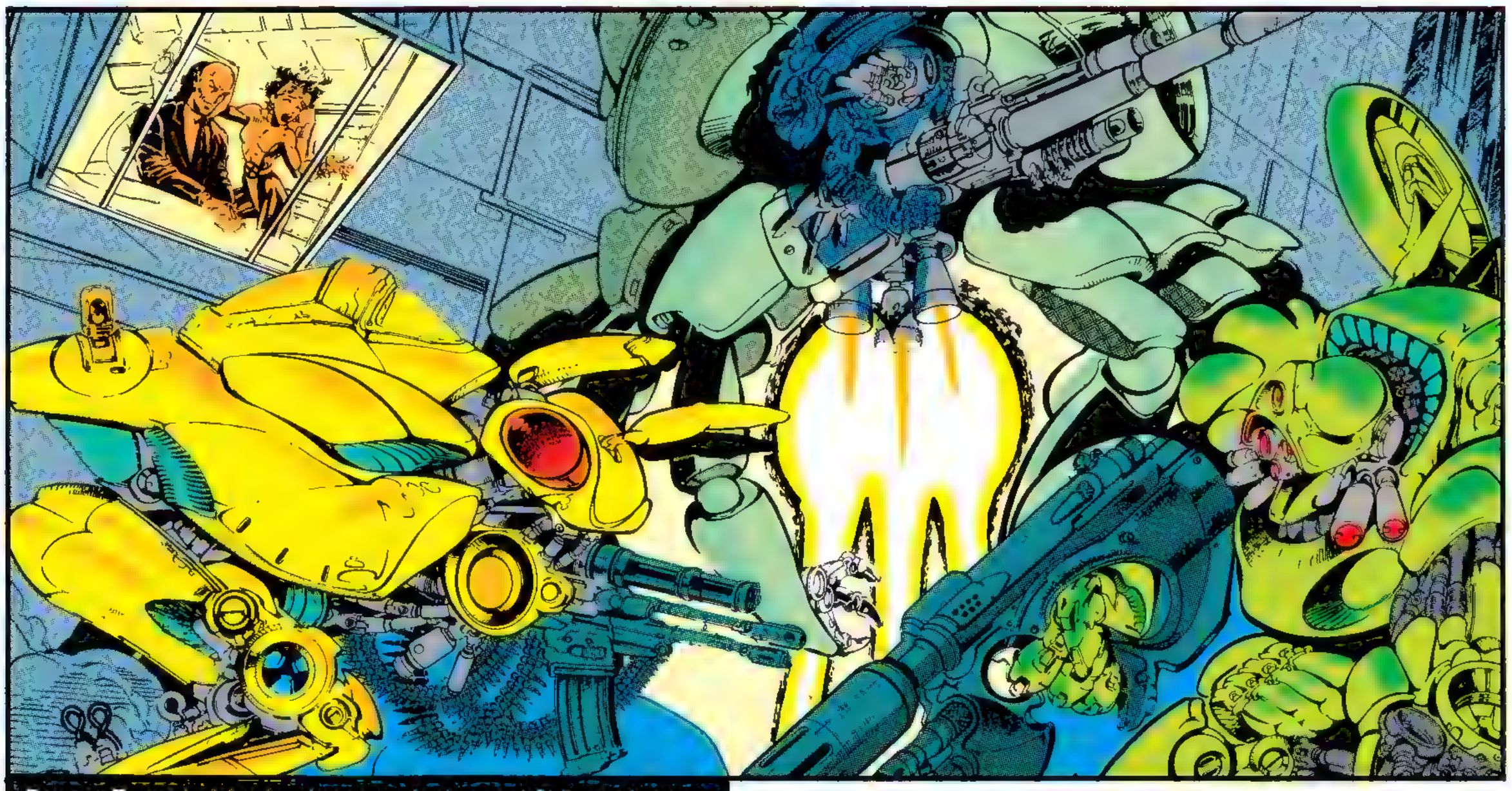
Ms. EMMA FROST — "THE WHITE QUEEN"

Recently recovered from her lengthy illness, Emma Frost has once again assumed her role as headmistress of *The Massachusetts Academy.* Herself a formidable telepath, Frost is responsible for the historic establishment of the first class at The Academy which permitted the enrollment of mutants — regardless of race, class, or economic standing. With her return to the faculty, Ms. Frost brings an example of tolerance, as well as a model of determination, from which all students may benefit.

SEAN CASSIDY — "BANSHEE"

His injured superhuman abilities recently restored (following a long period of inactivity), Sean Cassidy, *A.K.A.* Banshee, brings years of experience to the faculty of *The Massachusetts Academy.* A one-time criminal, former INTERPOL agent, and adjunct member of The X-Men, this master of the sonic scream will help guide the new generation of students through their paces, acting as both mentor and friend.

FACILITIES



Danger Room training involves use of advanced Shi'ar technology.

The three divisions of *The Xavier Institute* — Westchester's *School For Gifted Youngsters, The Massachusetts Academy* and the *Muir Island Research Center* — are equipped with cutting-edge technology of terrestrial and extra-terrestrial design. Thanks to Forge, X-Factor's leader and inventor *par excellence,* and to generous donations by Princess Lilandra Neramani of the Shi'ar Empire, all facilities provide students with the technological means to broaden their horizons and develop skills which will give them an advantage as they speed forward toward the next century!

ECOLOGICAL BIOSPHERE
A new level in combat simulation

An integral part of the students' growth and their development, The Biosphere serves the dual purpose of interactive classroom and natural battlefield, where students may hone their skills as individuals and as a team. In lieu of a conflict simulator prone to systems failures and other technological tragedies which might impede the learning process, The Biosphere is an ideal, *living* machine, independent of the *minutae* of circuitry maintenance.

In addition, a fully-functional **Danger Room** — incorporating all elements of Shi'ar technology, will be available to students. Since The Danger Room demands the utmost respect and prudence, ***all students are expressly forbidden from engaging in training sequences without faculty permission.*** Any pupil who violates this rule will be subject to penalties that may result in suspension and eventual expulsion from The Academy.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

In order to ascend in academic rank, each student must successfully complete each and every class in his/her particular mutant discipline. The disciplines are broken down as follows:

GENETICS

"The X-Factor": This pivotal — and required — class explores the mysteries surrounding the random biological variable known as the "X-Factor" chromosome. In conjunction with a thesis on the societal implications of this genetic anomaly, each student will be required to complete one semester of this course during his/her freshman year, and is expected to elect the *advanced* section sometime before the final semester of his/her senior term. Any student failing to successfully complete both sections will be denied graduation.
INSTRUCTOR: PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, Ph. D

Mutant Biology and Physiology: As a means of better understanding the physiological differences between humans and mutants, this course relies upon extensive field trips to *The Xavier Institute Muir Island Research Facility,* where they all will be required to examine the genetic structure of their fellow classmates!
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. MOIRA MacTAGGERT

PSYCHIC PHYSICS

Telepathic Conditioning: An introductory course in the rudiments of telepathic fortification, this class will focus on the projection and reception of thoughts, the development of psychic barriers, and psychological adjustments to psychic rapports.
INSTRUCTOR: EMMA FROST, PROFESSOR X
GUEST INSTRUCTORS: JEAN GREY, PSYLOCKE.

Telekinetics: Intended for students endowed with mind-over-physical-matter abilities, this course is designed to aid the students in developing the strength of their mental power.
GUEST INSTRUCTORS: JEAN GREY, CABLE

Teleportation and Spatial Displacement: In order to familiarize the student with the rigors of teleportation and spatial displacement, this popular — and oftentimes SRO — course utilizes both technological and natural biological means of physical relocation.
GUEST INSTRUCTORS: NIGHTCRAWLER, CABLE, SHADOWCAT

NOTE: This course is not recommended for students with weak constitutions. Those who have not passed the required physi-

cal examinations will not be admitted until they have successfully completed at least two semesters of *Strength and Muscle Training.*

ENERGY PROJECTION and MANIPULATION

Thermodynamics: A requirement for energy-wielding students, this course teaches physical control over one's abilities at the same time that it emphasizes the inherent need for psychological restraint.
GUEST INSTRUCTORS: CYCLOPS, HAVOK

Energy Conversion: Learn how to convert external energy into internal power. Release an object's potential energy and watch things get kinetic. This course focuses on the subtle techniques used to turn an opponent's abilities back on themself with devastating results.
GUEST INSTRUCTORS: BISHOP, GAMBIT

Gravity and Magnetism: Two fundamental forces of nature, gravity and magnetism are ubiquitous — yet rarely under stood. Explore the importance of these two inescapable forces with a half-semester intensive exposure to the positive and negative sides of terrestrial attraction.
GUEST INSTRUCTOR: POLARIS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Strength and Muscle Training: Adherent to the "sound body, sound mind" philosophy, *The Academy* requires that each and every pupil complete at least one full year of strength and muscle training in order to maintain the high level of physical competency the school's often rigorous courses demand.
GUEST INSTRUCTORS: STRONG GUY, ROGUE

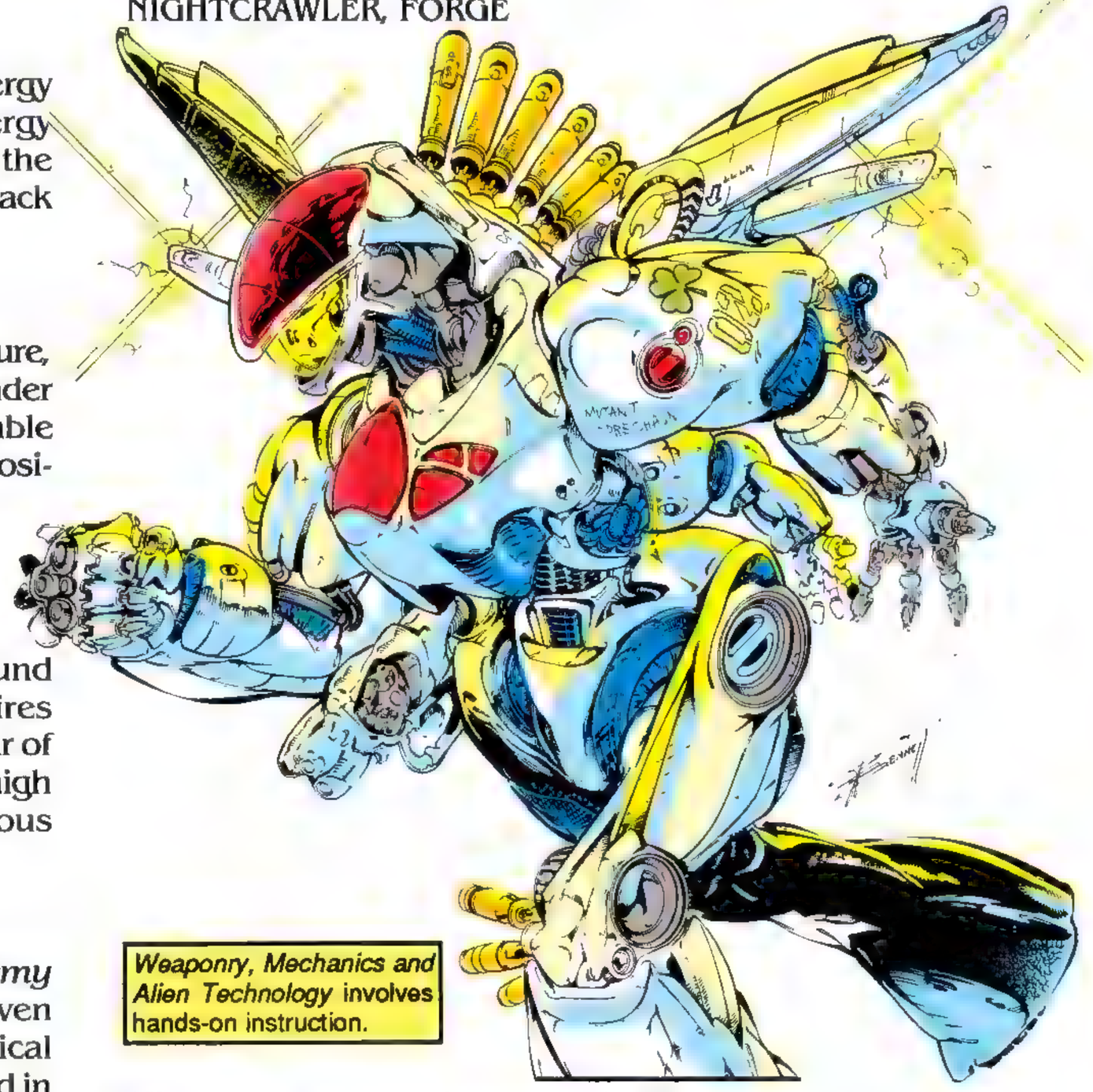
Dexterity, Acrobatics and Martial Arts: Another *Academy* favorite, this class pushes the students to become even better than the best of the best when it comes to physical prowess. And the fact that most of the sections are held in Danger Room holographic sequences adds to the challenge.
GUEST INSTRUCTORS: BEAST, GAMBIT, NIGHTCRAWLER, WOLVERINE, PSYLOCKE

Flight and Zero-Gravity Coordination: Experience the rush of free-falling through the clouds! Experience the weightless sensation of drifting through the void of outer space! Experiencing all this, and *more,* will be touched upon during this semester-long adventure into the stratosphere. . . *and beyond!*
INSTRUCTOR: BANSHEE
GUEST INSTRUCTORS: ARCHANGEL, ROGUE, STORM

Instructors include Dr. Henry McCoy (The Beast) and Dr. Moira MacTaggert.

SEMINARS

"Grace Under Pressure" — The Art Of Strategic Thinking: Focusing on the importance of developing a sound strategy for any and all crises, this face-to-face course examines the field strategies developed by the leaders of each X-team — including the X-Men Blue and Gold Teams, X-Force, X-Factor, and Excalibur — by placing the very people who put them into action under the class's scrutinizing eye.
SPECIAL GUESTS: CYCLOPS, STORM, CABLE, NIGHTCRAWLER, FORGE



Weaponry, Mechanics and Alien Technology involves hands-on instruction.

Weaponry, Mechanics and Alien Technology: Learn all about the intricate workings of The Danger Room, the Blackbird, and more of those gadgets that you're afraid to go near. No experience is required — but after one semester in this class, plenty is *gained.*
SPECIAL GUESTS: FORGE, CABLE, BISHOP

International Culture and History: One of the most important of the school's seminars, this four-semester-long section meets on a bi-weekly basis and is a requirement for graduation. Each section is guided by a different instructor, who will share stories of personal experiences and will conduct lessons about national heritage and cultural background.
SPECIAL GUESTS: PROF. XAVIER, FORGE, STORM, NIGHTCRAWLER

Business Administration: As mutantkind becomes increasingly involved in the complex international business community, students will need to be able to defend themselves on this often-dangerous playing field.
INSTRUCTORS: ARCHANGEL, WHITE QUEEN

Fine Arts (optional): The value of a practical education is enhanced by this very-diverse program of literary, visual, and performance arts that help to develop a well-rounded student.
INSTRUCTORS: STEVIE HUNTER, BEAST,
GUEST INSTRUCTORS TBA

[Editor Bob Harras noted, "We don't know where assistant editor [and writer] **Ben Raab** *came from, and we like it that way."]*

SCOTT LOBDELL

AND THE GENESIS OF GENERATION X

The phone rings in the New Jersey apartment which also serves as Scott Lobdell's office. Artist Chris (**GHOST RIDER 2099, X-MEN UNLIMITED #1**) Bachalo is calling from California with a question. Lobdell handles the inquiry quickly. He and Bachalo exchange transcoastal calls and faxes daily, often several times.

"I remember when it came time to actually write the first plot, and we talked about three times that day," Lobdell said, chuckling. "I said, 'well, here it goes for the next 10 years.'"

As the countdown winds down to the September launch of the next ongoing monthly series in the expanding X-Universe, Lobdell states firmly that he wants **GENERATION X** to maintain its own unique identity in the miasma of comics super hero universes, and that he wants their working relationship to continue for a long time.

"In the last few years, we've seen one comic book company after the next doing their versions of The X-Men," he observed. "I mean, you can't look at a team shot and not say, 'oh, there's a Wolverine character, there's a Psylocke character, and there's a Colossus character.' Although it's very flattering to me and Chris [Claremont] and John [Byrne] and everybody else who has worked on the book previously, we didn't want to set out to do another version of The X-Men. If you look at the characters [in **GENERATION X**], there's no team Wolverine or Nightcrawler. They look different. What [Chris and I] want to do is create the new team that would be ripped-off for the next 10 years."

Ironically, he said, the whole idea started kind of by accident.

About a year-and-a-half ago, Bob Harras asked Scott Lobdell to come up with a **NEW MUTANTS** one-shot or mini-series.

According to Scott, the impetus was as simple as Marvel needing to maintain the copyright. Lobdell was not especially excited at first, then he went home for the weekend and started thinking about it. By Monday, he had come up with the concept for an entirely new ongoing monthly series starring an all-new team of teenage mutants — with practically nothing in common with their predecessors, except age. To make matters even more provocative, they would be tutored by two of mutantkind's most unlikely co-principals, Banshee and The White Queen.

"I started toying with a bunch of ideas," he recalled. "Instead of having Charles in charge yet again, it would be Banshee, because he's one of my favorites and probably one of the most underused of the characters. Instead of the school in Westchester, already crowded beyond belief, we can throw it into the Massachusetts Academy. By the end of the weekend, I thought, 'well, this really isn't The New Mutants at all, this is something different.' When the people who are in charge of making such decisions were handed another X-book to add to the series of X-books, everybody got very excited."

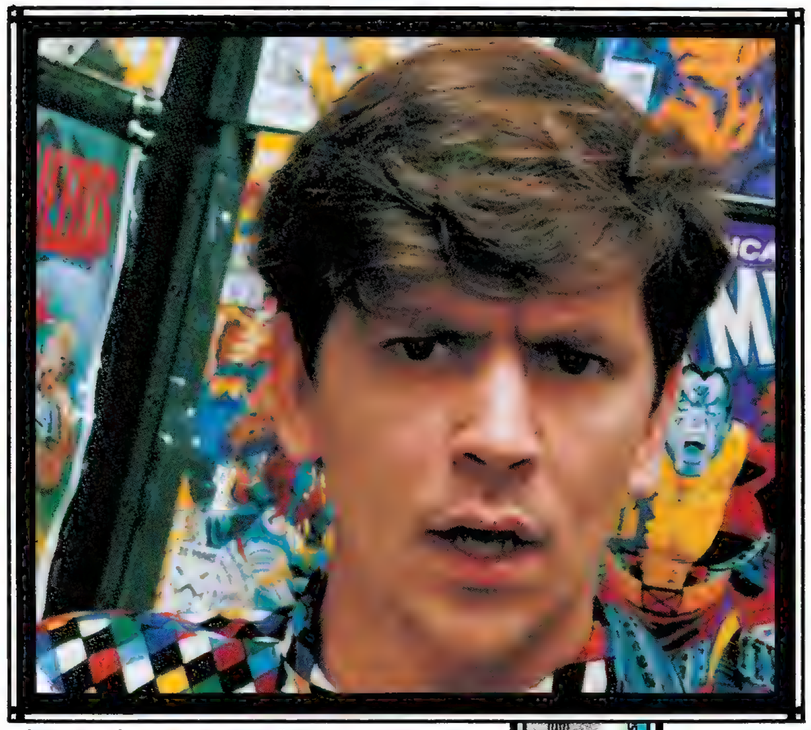
While he didn't want to create a new **X-Men** *per se*, he did want **GENERATION X** to be emblematic for mutants in the '90s in the way that the first two X-Men teams burst onto the scene. Most of all, he did not want the series to degenerate into a rehash of The New Mutants. Indeed, hypothetically, he would like to see the original class (Chamber, Husk, Penance, M, Mondo, Skin, Synch and Jubilee) progress from freshman to sophomore and so on, with new classes coming and going like a real school, and eventually they would graduate — unlike The New Mutants, who skipped school to form X-Force. And he stressed that while a large part of the lesson plans for the new team would help them get used to some pretty *non-human* body aesthetics (Chamber, Skin, Penance), the last thing he wanted was for the tone of the book to be dark and depressing.

"What's funny is that people came up to me after seeing some sketches and said, 'you know, this looks really exciting because it's going to be a grim and gritty **X-MEN** for the '90s,'" Lobdell mused. "Nothing could be further from the truth. As far as I'm concerned, these guys embody the same sense of optimism — defeating all odds and seeing the light at the end of the tunnel — as the second generation of X-Men in **GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1**. No matter how horrific the things they were against, like the Sentinels in issue #100, you really got a sense that these guys were in it for the long haul; not so much that nothing was going to defeat them, but that nothing was going to kick them down *morally*. They were not going to lose sight of why they were here. [**GENERATION X**] is about a bunch of kids who are learning to come together as a group and work together as a team. If there's a tonal quality, it's going to have a lot to do with hope and innocence and finding a way towards the light that is in each of us, if not in the world as a whole."

One key difference between the **GENERATION X** team and past teams is Lobdell wants this group of teens to actually act like students, and he'll give them a chance to grow up a bit before they take off to fight some arbitrary mega-super-villain or, like The New Mutants, sneak off to prove they are more mature than their elders think.

"Really, if you look at **X-MEN #1**, Jean Grey shows up, puts on her jumpsuit, and Professor X announces that they'll have to go off and fight Magneto," he noted. "I mean, that's not the work-study program I would like to be on as a child! There will be adventures, conflicts and villains, but it'll be more of a survival thing, trying to fend off someone whose sole purpose is to kill them."

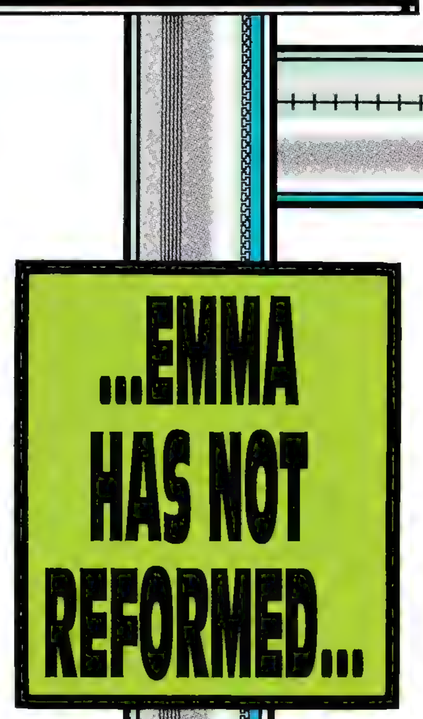
For example, he cited Emplate, who debuts in **GENERATION X #1**, and who, according to Lobdell, "will probably become their version of Magneto in the sense that he's a really horrible vicious character. He sucks the genetic marrow from the bones of young mutants, and he can absorb their powers, but he does it in an extremely horrific way because that's the only way he knows to keep himself anchored in this dimension. He prefers young mutants because they are tastier and provide him with more power. So this is a character who will be coming back, and who we also find out has some major ties to some members of the team. That's just the first guy out of the barrel, and he's exceptionally bizarrely drawn."

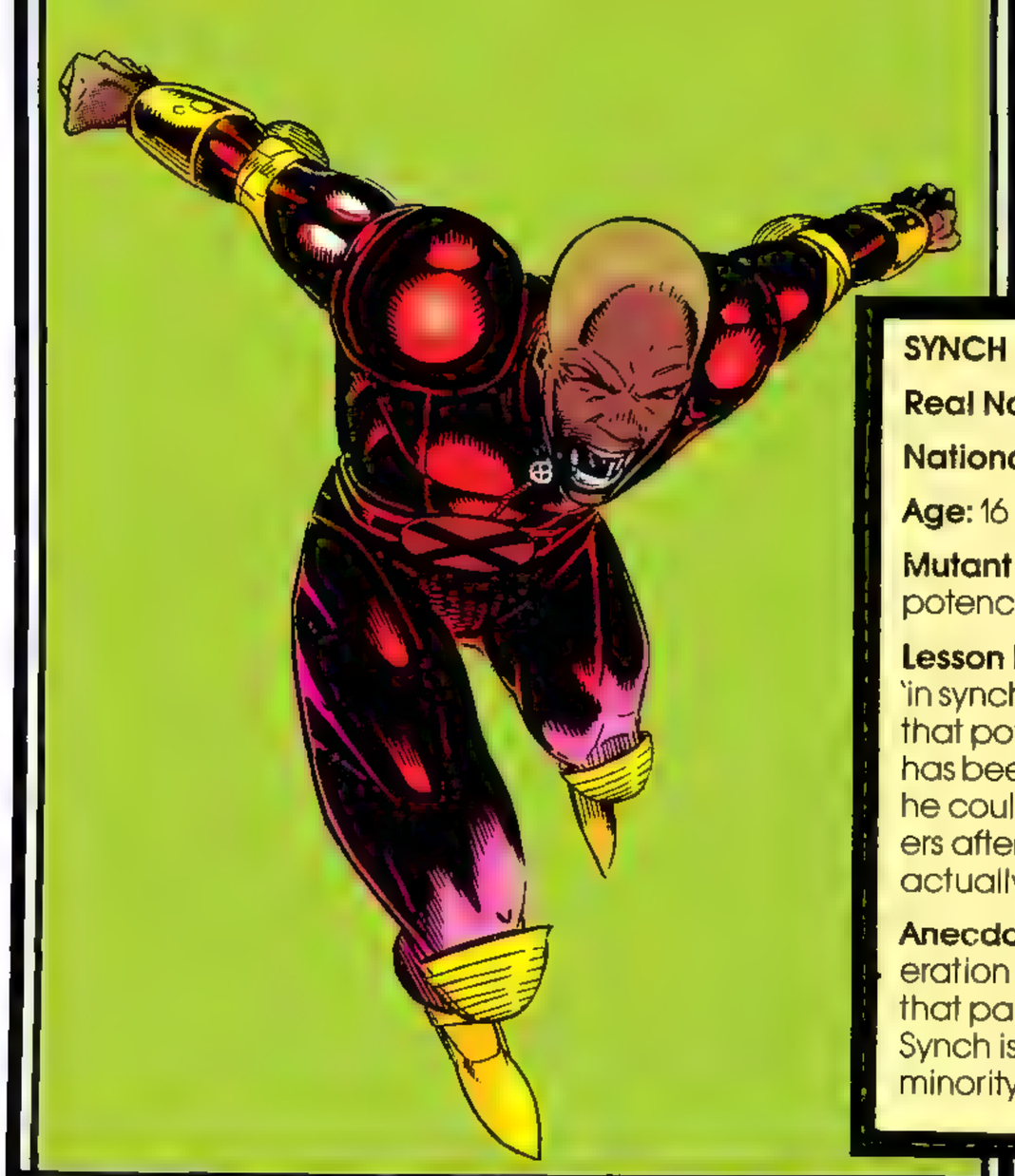


Of course, to some, merely having Emma Frost as a regular character is like having a villain in every installment. Lobdell, however, is quick to defend her, pointing out throughout her history in the Marvel Universe, she never has been the mastermind behind any major crimes. The X-Men may have considered her not a nice person, but hardly a major super villain. Still, she definitely will want to inject her own teaching perspective alongside with Xavier's techniques as represented by headmaster Sean Cassidy.

Unlike Magneto as headmaster of the New Mutants, Lobdell stressed, Emma has *not* reformed, but is merely open to the idea that her old students The Hellions would be alive today, had they had exposure to both her and Professor X's philosophies.

"I felt by introducing Emma into the mix, you almost have a Charles and Cable on the same team, trying to teach the same kids," Lobdell observed. A practical reason for including Emma in the book was that despite Lobdell's affection for Banshee and his feeling that the character was underused, Banshee as the sole instructor at the school had the potential to be "boring," to degenerate into a dead ringer for Xavier. He had to introduce another teacher, if only





SYNCH

Real Name: Everett Thomas

Nationality: USA (St. Louis, MO)

Age: 16

Mutant Power: "Limited range omnipotence?"

Lesson Plan: "He is able to get genetically 'in synch' with any other mutant power, but that power fades ultimately after contact has been severed. Banshee theorizes that if he could maintain his manufactured powers after the initial contact, Synch might actually be the first omnipotent mutant?!"

Anecdote: "Bored to death with the proliferation of angry young minority caricatures that pass for characters in today's comics, Synch is my testimony to the well-adjusted minority."

M

Real Name: Monet St. Croix

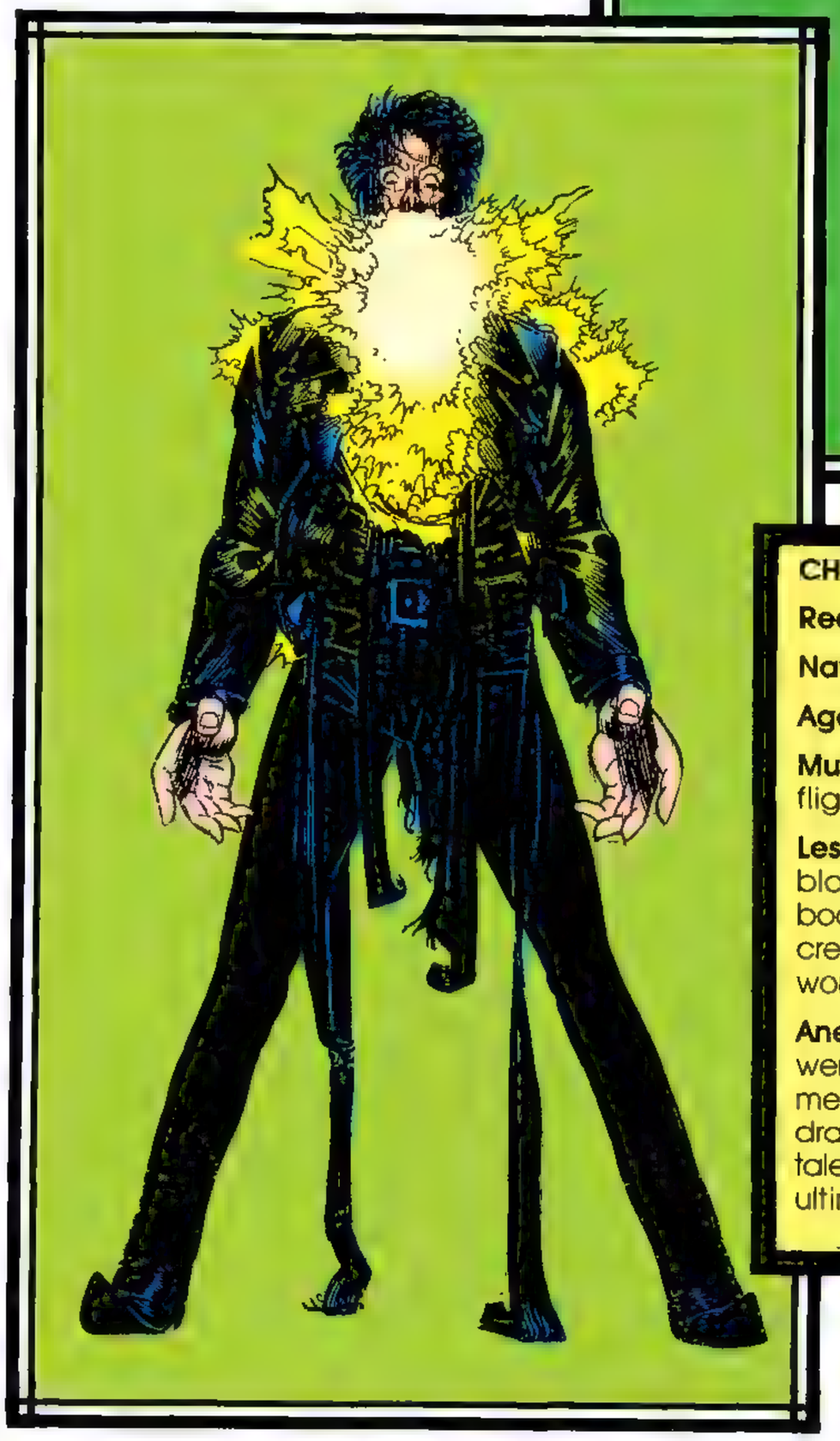
Nationality: Algerian

Age: 16

Mutant Power: "She's perfect."

Lesson Plan: "It gets tricky because her powers are already mega-impressive."

Anecdote: "When asked if he had any particular characters he'd like to bring to the book, the first sketch Chris pulled out was the young woman who eventually became M. Over the past few months, I've come to love her as much as Chris does, but, the fact is, while I may be her favorite uncle, Chris is certainly her father."



CHAMBER

Real Name: Jonathan Evan Starsmore

Nationality: British

Age: 18

Mutant Power: "Bio-blasts/Forge-assisted flight"

Lesson Plan: "Teach him to use his bio-blasts without destroying any more of his body, while training him in the Forge-created flight-assist device designed to work from Chamber's mutant bio-blast."

Anecdote: "The first sign that Chris and I were going to work well together—he told me the basic concept was impossible to draw. I laughed and told him he was more talented than he realized. The character's ultimate design proved me right."

to add conflict.

"Because of how poorly Moira [McTaggert] has treated [Banshee] in the past, I knew it couldn't be her," he noted. "When I began to think about who had experience with training mutants, it automatically hit me that The White Queen would be the perfect foil to Sean, if for no other reason than this perfect Irish gentleman would be *constantly* ill at ease hanging out with this gorgeous woman with a penchant for wearing Victoria's Secrets in public! 'Put on some clothes, woman; there are children present!' I was so excited at the moment of realization that I did something I rarely ever do. . .call Bob Harras at home. His reaction was exactly what I'd hoped for. 'Scott, don't call me at home.'"

GENERATION X #1 will open one week into the first semester. The Massachusetts Academy has been officially renamed Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, with the X-mansion in Westchester now called The Xavier Institute. Husk (Paige Guthrie) has already declared her desire *not* to make the same mistakes as her brother (Cannonball of **X-FORCE**) and that she wants to be educated by Charles Xavier. Jubilee has noted with anguish that her powers are insignificant compared to those of The X-Men, and that she needs more guidance to be "ready for this gig," a declaration Lobdell allowed Banshee to overhear in a bit of foreshadowing in **UNCANNY #313.** M, Skin, and Synch were introduced in this summer's **X-MEN/ UNCANNY X-MEN** crossover, "Generation Next".

The rest of the initial roll call will include "Chamber and the girl who will become Penance," Lobdell said, adding that Mondo will be a mid-semester-admission student, arriving later. He only *hinted* that one other young character from the crossover may or may not enroll. "We will be seeing more of her," he teased. "Right now, her name is Claire Ferguson and her code name will become Blink, if she joins. We're pretty sure she's not going to be joining any time in the immediate future, but I think she's a really cool character who could fit in."

Lobdell's uncertainty about Blink is characteristic of his general approach to the whole series. On one hand, he has well-developed ideas about his characters (see sidebars), but he also divulged that

he prefers to plot issue to issue with any series he is working on, conferring closely with his artist, in an organic fashion.

From the start, Lobdell wanted to collaborate with an artist who had the creativity and talent to bring a unique look to the book and to participate in the plotting and character development process. Early on, he had his heart set on Chris Bachalo: "We worked together on **X-MEN UNLIMITED #1**, and, about six pages into that, I came in to Bob and said 'we've found the guy to do **GENERATION X**.'"

Bachalo had a commitment to complete a run on *Shade: The Changing Man,* the DC Comics Vertigo title on which he had been creating a buzz. Both Harras and Lobdell agreed that it would be worth the wait. Since that wait ended, however, Bachalo and Lobdell have worked together every step of the way, with Bachalo creating two of the characters (M and Skin) and contributing to all the rest.

"What I've found in the past is that most artists don't like to be handed a character and told to, 'draw this, turn in the page,'" Lobdell observed. "I've always felt that artists do their best work the more involved they are with the project. I think it's been well worth it. All the fans who have the good taste to like Chris's work on *Shade* are just going to be blown away by what he does on **GENERATION X**."

The final irony for Lobdell, as **GENERATION X**'s release date looms closer and closer, is that the book's title came from discussions with fans at a comics convention more than two years ago, before it had become the buzzphrase for the post-baby-boomer generation. Lobdell liked the title and filed it away in his mental Rolodex.

"I was thinking 'X-Men — The Next Generation', but Paramount and the *Star Trek* guys already own that particular phrase," he said. "As far as I'm concerned that's my way of saying 'the next generation of X-Men,' and it has as much to do with 'Generation X' as I do. It got progressively more frustrating as movies came out and every headline said 'Generation X goes to the movies' or 'Generation X flushes the toilet.'"

A hip-sounding title, a radical new school, an intriguing blend of teachers, students meant to en-

SKIN

Real Name: Angelo Espinoza

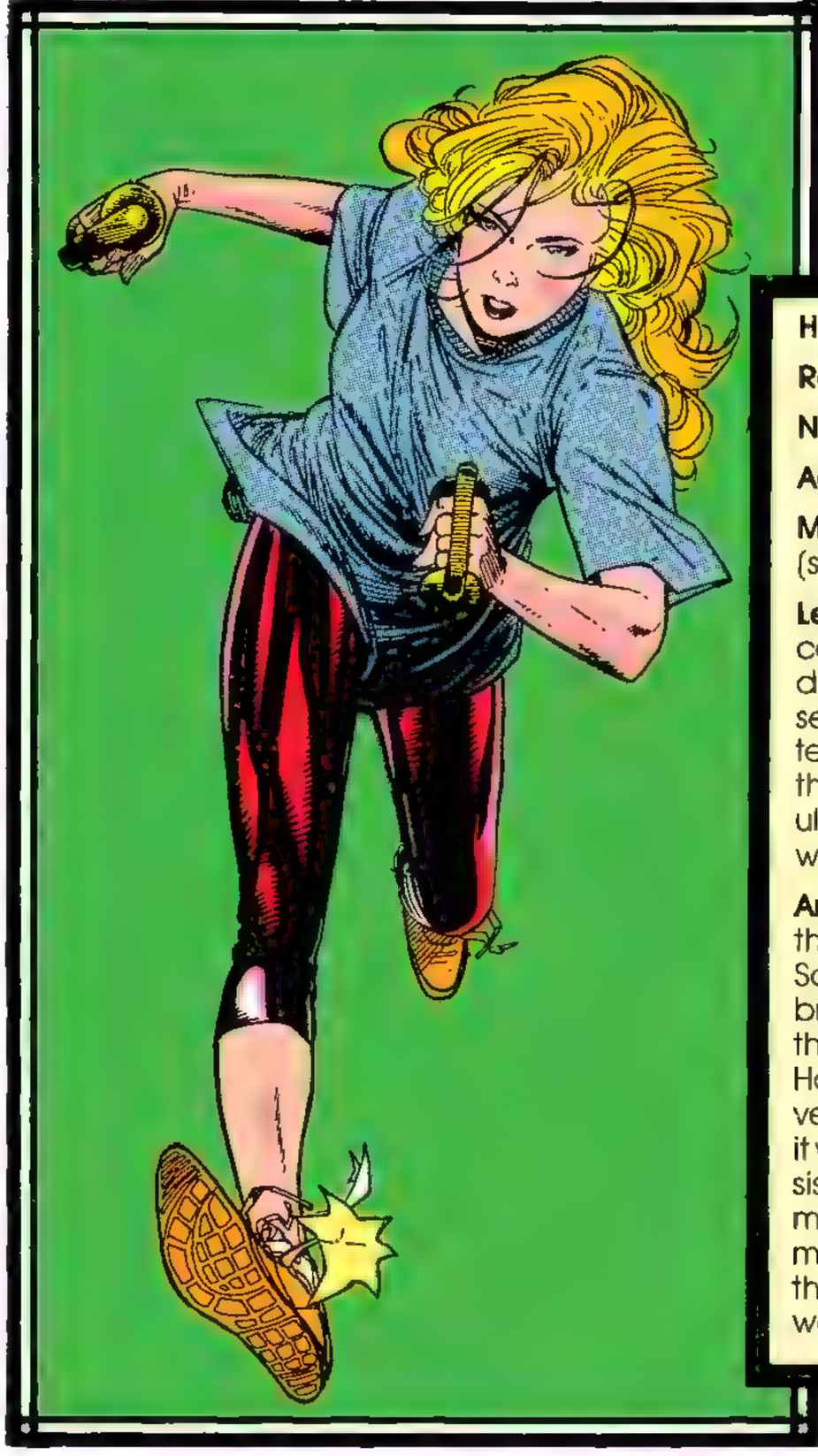
Nationality: USA (South Central Los Angeles)

Age: 15

Mutant Power: "Sort of an epidermal version of Medusa, he has total control over his skin. In his relaxed state, he looks not unlike a melted candle, [but] with much concentration, Skin can assume normal facial features."

Lesson Plan: "To school him in the various uses of his skin-manipulating powers, as well as to develop his abilities to the point he can pass for human full-time, if that is his desire. This is complicated on a subconscious level, [in] that if he succeeds he might be called on to return to his previous life, something that he doesn't necessarily want."

Anecdote: "Getting into the spirit of the horrific-looking Chamber, the frightening Penance, and the 'what is he doing?!' Mondo, Chris called up one day and said, 'Um, I got this idea for a weird-looking character who has three-to-six feet more skin than he needs.' My reaction was, 'And you said Chamber was weird-looking?!'"



HUSK

Real Name: Paige Guthrie

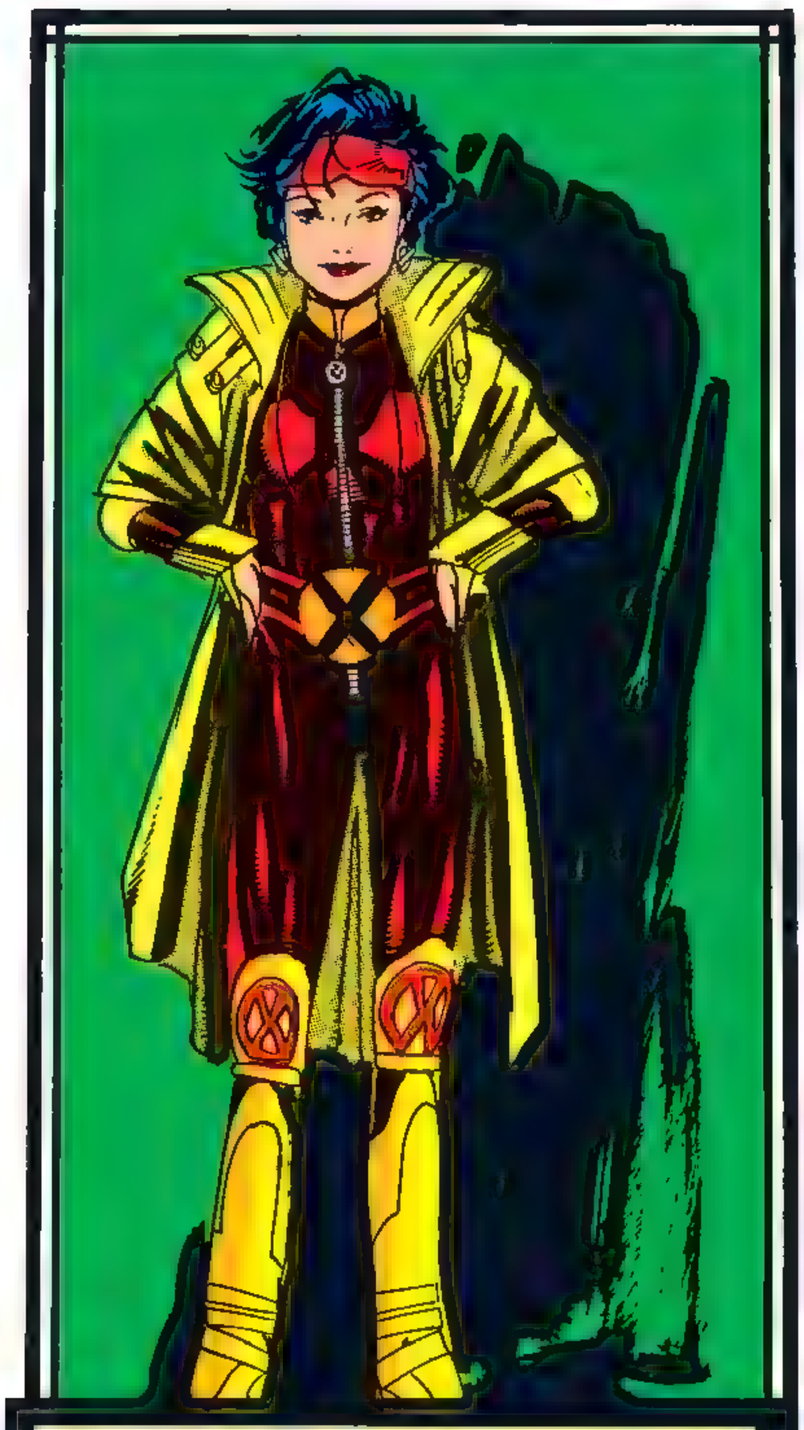
Nationality: USA

Age: 17

Mutant Power: "Perpetual metamorph (*sometimes flight/ sometimes not*)"

Lesson Plan: "To ultimately teach her to control every aspect of her constant self-induced metamorphoses, i.e. what at first seem random changes each time she tears herself asunder. Banshee believes that, under Emma's guidance, Paige will ultimately be able to metamorph into whatever she wishes."

Anecdote: "I believe it was established in the very first issue of **NEW MUTANTS** that Sam had something like eight-to-ten brothers and sisters. What are the chances that at least one of them was a mutant? Having no interest in rehashing the Scott versus Alex Summers competition, I thought it would be interesting to see how a brother/sister relationship would play. To make it more interesting, the younger sibling is much more skilled and dedicated than the older sibling was. Personally, I can't wait until she's old enough to date. . ."



gender the same sense of anticipation as the original X-teams and yet have their own unique identities — whatever the coincidences, ironies, and pure chance involved, Lobdell acknowledged that he feels a great feeling of anticipation. He had earned his reputation as a writer following in the footsteps of such seminal writers as Stan Lee, Chris Claremont, and Peter David. Now, though he is housing his characters in old real estate, a few of the faces are familiar, and he essentially is building an ongoing series from the ground up.

"That's the one question that no one has asked me," he said. "How do I feel about starting something fresh instead of being in the constant shadow of previous writers? Well, I'm looking forward to starting an ongoing series with the first issue and hoping that readers will judge it for what it is from the get-go rather than by its previous history."

Writer **Anya Martin** *is a freelance journalist who specializes in rock music. Her dream interview would be with the Finnish band, The Leningrad Cowboys.*

JUBILEE

Real Name: Jubilation Lee

Nationality: Southern California ("its own nationality")

Age: "13 and a half!"

Mutant Power: "Can create fireworks — sometimes more so than others."

Lesson Plan: "Upgrade her firework power so it doesn't only work best at times of extreme stress. Just how explosive/destructive can she be. . .hmmmmm?"

Anecdote: "When we first started batting around the idea of **GENERATION X** almost a year and a half ago, Bob and I only had a vague idea about the role Jubilee would play in the book — if any role at all. But with all the exciting character revelations and developments that came about in Jubilee over the last year, we couldn't imagine not making her a member of the team. Jubilee is the perfect link between the past and future of the X-Men."

PENANCE

Real Name: "Non-applicable."

Nationality: Yugoslavian

Age: "A very hard 14."

Mutant Power: "Her body is atrophied to the point of diamond hardness, contracting so far in on itself that it actually absorbs the light in the immediate area, giving her the appearance of being in constant shadow."

Lesson Plan: "She has to learn to play nicely with the others."

Anecdote: "While this won't be a 'glum and gritty' series, rife with nihilistic crap, there will certainly be some angst throughout, most of which will initially be provided by this mysterious young woman. She possesses a shocking secret that while having nothing whatsoever to do with her mutant ability, might ultimately threaten her position on the team."

MONDO

Real Name: Unknown

Nationality: Samoan

Age: 19

Mutant Power: "Absorbs living mass into self and thereby becomes 'like' whatever he has absorbed (trees, etc.) until he manages to 'digest' said object. He'll eventually try to absorb animals and inanimate objects, with varying degrees of success."

Lesson Plan: "Besides the need to examine the many different uses of his powers, both Sean and Emma agree they have to instill in him some sense of a 'survival instinct' if he is going to function in a world dominated by evil mutants and Sentinels."

Anecdote: "Every team needs a Beast or a Nightcrawler, or — heaven help us — a Speedball, and the down-to-earth Mondo is Generation X's. His philosophy is best summed up by the same quote that was beside my name in my high school yearbook: 'Life is too serious to be taken too seriously.'"

If you think just ANY mutant can get into Professor X's schools, you've been sadly MISINFORMED. Here's a group of potential students who DIDN'T pass the final entrance exam into GENERATION X.Y2.U'll Z...

LEAFMASTER: This young fellow's mutant ability to shoot leaves from his arms actually DID entitle him to a scholarship-- until he became the FIRST student in the school's history to be NIXED by the GROUNDSKEEPER!!

LEAF me alone.

DEPRESSO: His power to BUM OUT all within earshot would be MORE effective if he used it STRICTLY around his enemies--INSTEAD of saying things like "We're all gonna DIE!!" before embarking on a MISSION. And imagine the way school spirit would PLUMMET if he were allowed to go to PEP RALLIES!

This strip ISN'T funny enough.

RADIAL: Becoming the finest STEEL BELTED TIRE available would SEEM to be a BOON in pursuing bad guys --EXCEPT it ONLY works if they're fleeing DOWNHILL.

ATCH-CHOO!!

SYDEWAZE: With DISTORTION POWERS that appear to TIP reality on its SIDE, Sydewaze seemed a SHOO-IN. And he WAS-- until someone checked the school LIBRARY and discovered that these days, MOST mutant comics seem to be printed on their sides ALREADY, so his abilities would likely have NO licensing value when his exploits were CHRONICLED.

SNEEZING LOUISE: Her nasal expulsion powers are prodigious-- AND disgusting!! BIG thumbs down from the schod CAFETERIA workers--PARTICULARLY those working the SALAD BAR!

There's NO question which side I'M on!

FRED HEMBECK

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION

THE CREATION OF CHAMBER

At first I stared back, unable to believe that it was I who was reflected in the mirror, and when I became fully convinced that I was in reality the monster that I am, I was filled with the bitterest sensations.

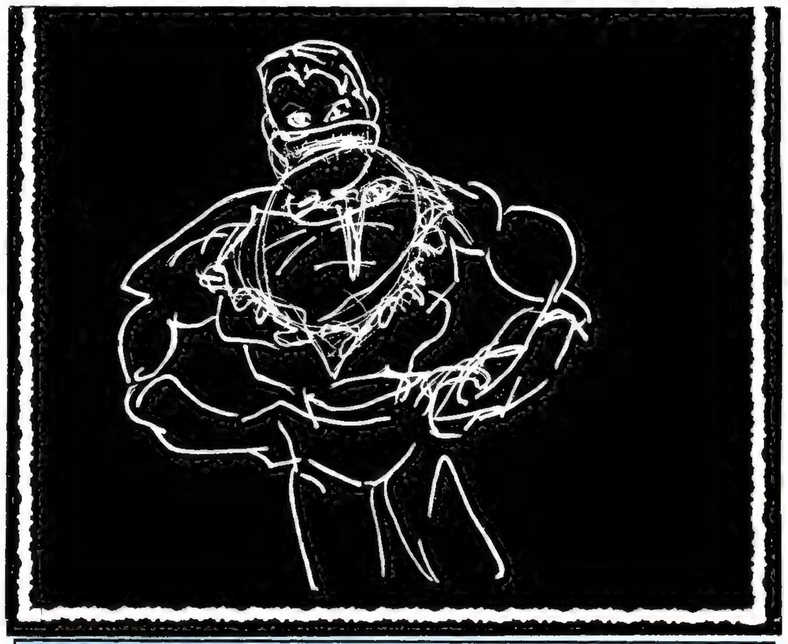
--Mary Shelley, Frankenstein

It is a face no mother could love. It is a face that stops clocks, shatters mirrors, and invokes furtive, superstitious gestures to avert the evil eye. Maimed beyond recognition or repair, disfigured by explosion, it is a face that has paid a horrible price for belonging to a mutant. The face belongs to Chamber, easily one of the most compelling new characters created by Scott Lobdell and Chris Bachalo for **GENERATION X.**

How does such a grotesque and singular character like Chamber come into existence? What kind of collaboration between a writer and artist creates a teenager who hails from England, dresses like Neil Gaiman, and whose chest and lower half of his face were blown away in an explosion — replaced by a coruscating ball of energy?

No one goes about the process of creating a comic book and the characters that populate it in quite the same fashion, and **GENERATION X** is a title X-MEN Editor Bob Harras firmly regards as a creator-driven book, not a company-generated project. "Scott was really pushing for it. I was intrigued with the characters and the idea of Professor Xavier starting a new school with young mutants, because the school is important to the Marvel Universe. I have a good working relationship with Scott — I trust his instincts and when Chris came on. . . well, I love his stuff. It's an issue of trust — a different take on how a mutant book can be done. Usually I'm a very hands-on editor because I *know* The X-Men and their teams. This book is different."

The term "hands-on editor" generally means the editor is actively involved in all stages of the creative process, offering advice, giving feedback on ideas and providing a framework in which the book and characters take form. This style is well-suited for multiple, interlocking monthly titles where continuity is important. A "hands-off" editor tends to act as a shepherd on a project, allowing the artistic team to take the initiative, and giving minimal input. This tends to work with limited series or one-shot stories, but can be effective on a monthly title with the right artistic team and with the right material. There's always an element of risk rolling the creative dice like this, but Harras feels the gamble is worth it — particularly if a character like Chamber is the result. "Chris's visual of Chamber I liked from the word 'go.' I liked that he was wounded by his mutant power. Same thing for the character of Skin. People associate with 'The Other' and Skin and Chamber will be the most graphic example of that."



Above: During early discussions at the San Diego ComicCon, writer Scott Lobdell produced the *first* rough of Chamber in Chris Bachalo's sketchbook. **Opposite page:** Bachalo refined Lobdell's rough concept into the final look for Chamber, seen here from GENERATION X #1.

For those unfamiliar with British occult author Colin Wilson's phrase, 'The Other' is a personification of the dark side of human nature and the attraction such a being can exert. Chamber is seductive precisely because his very *existence* flaunts social conventions and breaks taboos. In other words, according to Harras, "Chamber epitomizes — in one character — what the X-Men are all about."

If Chamber is indeed the quintessential X-Man, just how does a creative team begin conceptualizing such a character? What kind of synergy occurs between the writer and the artist to incarnate a character like Chamber? "When I first heard about him, I thought it was the most ridiculous idea," Chris Bachalo recalled. "I was wondering 'What have I gotten myself into?' when Scott told me that Chamber's chest and lower half of his face were destroyed in an explosion and there was a ball of energy spewing out — how is this going to look and I have to put him together to look cool. I thought 'I'm not too far from *Shade* [the Vertigo title Chris illustrated for four years] after all."

When Chris met Scott during the 1993 San Diego Comic Convention, he brought along his sketchbook and asked Scott to draw Chamber for him. "Scott drew a doodle so I could work on it and be on the same track, instead of floundering." From visual ideas passed back and forth on napkins during their dinner meeting, Chris drew a concept sketch of the disfigured mutant, "and Chamber was the easiest character to come up with. The first time I drew him he was *there.* It was very spontaneous and very natural — one of those magical moments that you wish would happen all the time. It's very exciting — it makes your day."

Scott, too, had a similar experience. "Chamber was the absolute first **GENERATION X** character to be created — he came with his real and superhero name, and his physical appearance full blown and first cut out of the barrel." Chamber seemed to *manifest* himself to Scott and Chris, and, Chris observed, when the creative process takes this particular turn it is indeed a rare and magical moment. Characters who come into being this way gradually reveal themselves through the writing and artwork. "I'm a writer who likes to discover the characters as I write them," Scott observed. "I'm very fond of Chamber — I look forward to meeting him, finding out who he is."

Chris, too, is looking forward to drawing Chamber and is taking pains to make sure the character is fully realized. "Everything's amplified in a super hero book. It's like a musical — movement and action are exaggerated for characterization. The key word is 'choreography' — how the characters are positioned, spacewise, to one another. Body language is very important; it tells a lot about a person and his character. Chamber is lax in his body language — he has a James Dean style of how he carries himself. A bit on the reserved side, he's very aware he's disfigured. Very bitter and brooding; a bit of a rebel."

One question remains — why? Why Chamber, why Skin and the rest of **GENERATION X,** why revive Xavier's school with Sean Cassidy in charge and Emma Frost on staff? "Banshee isn't about breeding new X-Men — he's teaching these kids how to fit into society. If someone graduates [to become an] X-Man, that's fine, but it's Sean's vocation to educate them. In the case of someone like Chamber, it might go past the point of educating to helping heal him." And, as Scott reflected, there's much that needs healing. "One of Bob's edicts with **GENERATION X** was to examine the lives of people who can't blend in, who can't turn off their powers. Some of these characters are forced just by their appearance to be forever denied a chance to have a normal life. A very important part of what Banshee's teaching them is not only to accept their differences but to celebrate them.

"THE FIRST TIME I DREW HIM HE WAS THERE."

"What's real in today's society is a sense of alienation and feeling that you're floundering all alone, out on your own. That is something Chamber and Skin embody, and what they'll find, and what *we'll* find through association is that neither they nor we are as alone as we think. The sad thing is there's an incredible amount of pain in the world and it's not balanced out by enough people reaching out to each other. That, more than anything else, is what **GENERATION X** is all about."

Writer **Kim Yale,** *who frequently collaborates on comics projects with her husband, John Ostrander, has a B.A. in English and theater from Knox College in Illinois.*

MY WIFE MADE ME DO IT

A Profile of artist Chris Bachalo

It has often been said that behind all great men stand the women who urge them on to achieve greatness. Such is definitely the case with **GENERATION X** artist Chris Bachalo, who will readily admit that it was his wife who encouraged him to accept the high-profile X-assignment. "My wife was pressing me to do this kind of stuff, and I owe a lot of what I'm doing right now to her." Initially Bachalo, who had just finished a four-year run on DC's *Shade: The Changing Man*, turned down drawing **X-MEN UNLIMITED** on a regular basis. (His work appeared in the initial issue of the series.) "I didn't think I'd have the time. I didn't know if it was going to be something I would be really interested in. [My wife] encouraged me to do it."

That said, Bachalo will go on to point out that he is now having the time of his life on **GENERATION X**. "The more I'm doing it, the more I'm enjoying it. Initially, I was having a difficult time with it. You can ask my wife — I was miserable to be around, which I usually am when I'm trying to come up with something and I'm not having a good time with it. Now, being halfway through the first issue, (as of May) and after doing the poster, the trading cards, and the ashcan, it's coming along easier. I'm getting to know each character, and as I get to know them, I'm feeling more comfortable with them, and I'm enjoying them more. I think you'll find — as the year progresses — they'll get better and better looking, as I get used to them and the style."

Bachalo, a soft-spoken, articulate craftsman, is very reflective about his own newly-achieved status as a "hot" artist. "It's very flattering. I haven't actually thought about it much because I'm very much removed from that limelight and that life. I sit here in my studio by myself. I don't feel it, for the most part. A couple of my friends said, 'Oh wow, you're getting real hot now.' I have no idea. I like the attention — don't get me wrong, it's very flattering. I'm trying real hard to come up with a style that won't be like everyone else's — to be an individual. Hopefully I'd be able to be successful in my own right and my own talent."

Still, there is a bit of a heady atmosphere surrounding both Bachalo and the new title; after all — the X-books are the titles of kings, starting with the King himself, Jack Kirby, and running through to the present day with Neal Adams, Jim Steranko, Dave Cockrum, John Byrne, Barry Windsor-Smith, Jim Lee, John Romita, Jr., Andy Kubert, and many other X-artists contributing to the legend. Bachalo not only has a large set of shoes to fill, but comparisons to those who have come before him are inevitable. Given the wealth of X-history, Bachalo is reluctant to admit that, when he was growing up, the **X-MEN** was never a favorite title of his. "When I was collecting comics The X-Men were very popular — when Byrne and Claremont were doing them. I always found myself to be a bit of an outcast or a rebel because I didn't follow the popular trends. I collected **GHOST RIDER, WEREWOLF BY NIGHT**, and **THE HULK**, books that weren't quite as popular."

Now that he has landed one of the most plum assignments a comic artist can nab, has he gone back to check out any of those classic issues? "To be honest, I haven't read any of it. Except for an occasional issue when there might have been a guest villain that I liked, I never read **X-MEN**. I don't know much about them. I know who all the characters are, of course. I've never gone back and read any [because] I'm trying to give a fresh perspective [to **GENERATION X**]. I'm not going to find myself imitating someone else's work, or doing something that someone else has done."

Breaking in or The (Not so) long road to X

Though he read comics while growing up, Bachalo had no real desire to get into the business. In fact, it wasn't until he took a high school aptitude test that he actually gave any thought to what he wanted to be when he grew up. "I was about 16, and I was going through career week at high school. They had me fill out these forms; at the end they made suggestions as to what I should do as a career. They had me down as a carpenter. Since I'm allergic to dust, it wasn't something that I really wanted to do." However, the incident did get Bachalo thinking as to what he *did* want to do. "I was enjoying comics, and I spent a lot of time doodling in my notebooks when I was supposed to be taking notes in history class." Which got him to thinking about comics as a career.

During his junior and senior years, he started taking art classes. "A friend of mine wanted to be a writer, so, we started doing our own comics." Upon graduation Bachalo entered Cal State Long Beach College and took a full schedule of classes: math, English, history, geography, and art. During his final semester he and a friend put together a 16-page comic book. His friend wrote it, and Bachalo penciled and inked it. Upon graduation, "I sent it out to Marvel, DC, Eclipse, Comico, and anyone else that was publishing. I got rejection notices the first time around," he reminisced.

early Husk— started to consider what girls uniforms should be like

Undaunted, he pursued other types of artwork, including painting flowers on ceramic pots and doing advertising art for a real estate firm. Six months after he received his rejection notices, DC sent a feeler to see if he was still interested in drawing comics. He had just finished another mock-up comic, with a friend again doing the writing, so he sent it to DC. About a week later, he got a call back. "I was asked if I wanted to try out for a new book they were putting out called *Shade: The Changing Man,* written by Peter Milligan. I tried out for that and he accepled me." Bachalo's actual debut was *Sandman #12,* which he drew while he was waiting for the script of *Shade #1.*

That he got in so easily came as a shock to Bachalo, who never imagined that he would start off at one of the major companies. "Before I started out in the business I was under the perception that I would have to work for some sort of independent company for an extended period of time before I would be discovered by one of the 'big two,' hopefully not before too long. I thought that was the road I'd have to take. I pretty much jumped right in, and landed on some really big books right away." In addition to working on *Shade,* and the *Sandman* issue, he drew an issue of *Legends of the Dark Knight,* the much-praised *Death: the High Cost of Living,* and the *Children's Crusade* bookshelf issues.

Coming in out of the Shade

Three years into his four-year *Shade* stint, he got a call from Marvel's Bobbie Chase. "It was around the time at Marvel when all the big creators were leaving to form Image, and of course there were some nice openings for artists to take their places. It also put a lot of editors in positions where they had to find artists to take their places. I received a call from Bobbie Chase, who was editing **HULK.** Dale Keown had just left that book, and she was looking for somebody to help finish up **HULK #400.**" Bachalo accepted the assignment, and he and Jan Duursema finished off the issue. The **HULK** assignment led directly to his working on **X-MEN UNLIMITED #1.** "After I finished that, they were pretty happy with it. A month or two after that (April or May of '93), they offered me the **GENERATION X** book."

According to **GENERATION X** creator Scott Lobdell, he specifically sought out Bachalo for the assignment, then allowed the concept to remain idle for a year until Bachalo's contract with DC expired. "I really wanted Chris on the series, so I was willing to wait for him," Lobdell said. As stated, Bachalo was initially wary

approaching the series, but now is enjoying it immensely. "I was very much afraid that I would be limited as to what I could do on these books, and get a lot of editorial supervision. I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to flex my creative talents. I'm finding that working with Bob Harras, especially, is great. I just go and do what I do. It's a great freedom to have. I'm having a lot of fun with it."

Part of the reason for this is that Lobdell has been actively seeking Bachalo's input into the series. "Scott and I have been talking a lot. I can't say I'm directly involved with the plotting; what he's been doing is calling me up and bouncing a few ideas off me to see what I think. As far as coming up with the storylines, I haven't been directly involved with that. I might add an idea here and there." He admitted that he doesn't have much talent in writing, and so is more than willing to let others handle that aspect. Still, not only has he redesigned the school uniform, he has helped shape the characterization of the new students, including designing their individual looks, and actually creating a pair of the young mutants (M and Skin).

Catching a break

While Bachalo's rise to stardom has been a relatively swift one, he does have advice to offer to those who would desire to break into the business. "Go and take a complete art-school course." He adds that, if possible, people should take more schooling than just art classes. "I think the more you know, the better your art is going to be. You'll have information to apply to your art, and that can only make you a better artist." Needless to say, when kids come up to Bachalo for advice, they often find this disheartening because (according to Bachalo) "A lot of these kids aren't interested at all in going to school, and their work is going to suffer for it."

He stated that many people who want to break in tend to be very generic in their approach. "They're copying their favorite artist, which is nice to a point, but it's not going to make you a good artist, and as far as being an individual, it's not going to help you out very much. You're just basically a clone of [another artist]. Somebody else has put a lot of work into developing a style, gone to school, and is a well-rounded artist. I always tell [aspiring artists], 'go to school, learn how to layout pages, learn your basics in design, your three-dimensional design.'" By way of proving this, Bachalo points to his own work on *Shade*, which is certainly a far cry from what fans are used to seeing on the action/

adventure X-books.

"It's very exciting to draw these big menacing guys in dynamic poses. That's the fun part of it. But, if you want to be an artist, not everything is fun. You're going to have to draw cars, desks, phones, and people standing in the background, which can be boring stuff. You have to do that if you're going to be a well-rounded artist."

Bachalo feels that artists who constantly depict over-muscled men and big-busted women in static, posed shots are not doing right by the people trying to get into the business. "It's a disservice to some of the kids who think, 'Well, if these guys can do this, I can do it too.'"

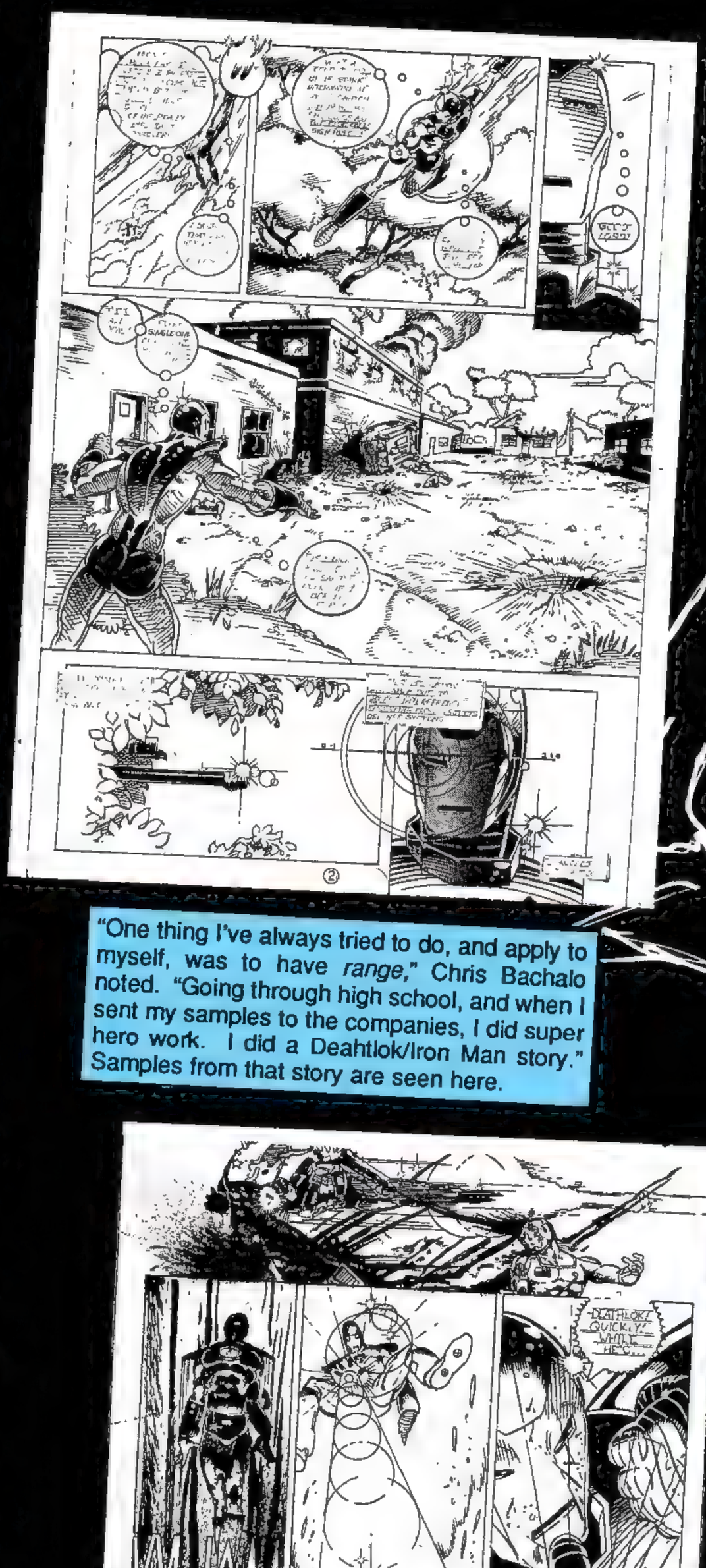
Returning to his own work he stated, "The only thing Bobbie had to base my talent on is *Shade*, and *Shade* isn't anywhere remotely close to superhero genre stuff. It's realistic and it deals with people and relationships. Basically, it's a lot of talking heads — very few visuals. **GENERATION X** is a lot different for me. I'm taking it as a challenge." Bachalo feels it is very important for a person to apply themself to whatever it is they are doing, and to be willing to try new things. "One thing I've always tried to do, and apply to myself, was to have *range*. Going through high school, and when I sent my samples to the companies, I did super hero work. I did a Deathlok/Iron Man story. My favorite books at the time were the soon-to-be Vertigo books — the *Sandman* books and *Hellblazer*. I was enjoying that as a reader, but I was trying to get in as anything. I knew I had the range to do anything if I applied myself."

Looking ahead

According to Lobdell, he was looking for a different slant on The X-Men with **GENERATION X**. In fact, if one were to ask Lobdell, he would probably say that the X-Men have all but defined the concept of big muscles, big guns, and exaggerated poses. Thus, to simply produce another book along those lines would be a waste of time. Bachalo agrees: "I've tried to stay away from muscle-bound, gun-toting guys with lots of hair, who haven't shaved in six days. On **GENERATION X**, there are a lot of kids, very normal — like you might find in everyday society — dealing with real problems. I'm trying not to exaggerate things to a great deal. I'm trying to be very realistic. I think that's what my strong point is, and that's what works for me, so I'm going to stay with that. Hopefully, it will find an audience and people will enjoy it."

In September X-fans will get to decide that for themselves. In the meantime, Bachalo gets to have the final word on the subject. "I wanted to take a different approach, go back to what super heroes were like back in the Silver Age — the '60s, maybe the early '70s — they dealt more with personal problems and they were probably more realistic than they are today. They weren't so muscle-bound, and that's something I wanted to go back to. I wanted to explore the original direction of the X-Men when they came out."

Robert J. Sodaro — *full-time freelance writer and part-time working philosopher — became a writer when he was bitten by a radioactive Robert A. Heinlein novel. Being a philosopher is his mutant ability.*



"One thing I've always tried to do, and apply to myself, was to have *range*," Chris Bachalo noted. "Going through high school, and when I sent my samples to the companies, I did super hero work. I did a Deahtlok/Iron Man story." Samples from that story are seen here.

X-MEN MARVEL MASTERPIECES

This October, Fleer's exquisite *Marvel Masterpieces* card set will appear in stores. The 155-piece painted set will contain a strong mutant presence.

Marvel Masterpieces will be painted by twin brothers Greg and Tim Hildebrandt, known for their wide range of finely painted fantasy work ranging from movie posters to calendars to book covers to Fleer's *Ultra X-Men* chase cards.

"The popularity of Greg and Tim's work, as part of the *X-Men Ultra* nine-block chase set, made them an obvious choice as feature artists in a *Masterpieces* collection. Fleer is thrilled to be kicking off their premiere *Masterpieces* release with such renowned and fan-favored artists as the Hildebrandt brothers," Fleer Marketing Manager John Taddeo said.

Greg Hildebrandt revealed how much they have been enjoying expanding their horizons by painting this set: "The comic genre is a new one for us, and we love the dynamic action poses and highly exaggerated colors. It really provides us with the opportunity to go to the extreme."

"Fans will be delighted to see the Hildebrandts' artwork on *other* X-related characters," explained Taddeo, "though, of course, there will be all new renditions of characters previously painted (by them)."

Each box of *Marvel Masterpieces* will contain 36 packs, with eight cards per pack. Taddeo said, "All cards will feature an all-new foil-stamping process and one card per pack will spotlight a 'plate-signed' card," which will entail the stamping of a Hildebrandt signature onto the card. He explained that all cards will be printed on extra-thick 14-point card stock and will have UV (ultra-violet) coating.

The X-Men characters will appear in the *Marvel Masterpieces* as listed below.

Writer **Jonathan Baylis** *has been reading comics for 18 out of his 21 years. His first grade teacher once stole his comics and he hopes to get them back someday.*

Generation X:
- Chamber
- Husk
- Jubilee
- M
- Mondo
- Penance
- Skin
- Sync
- White Queen

The X-Men:
- Archangel
- Beast
- Bishop
- Cyclops
- Gambit
- Iceman
- Jean Grey
- Professor X
- Psylocke
- Rogue
- Storm
- Wolverine

X-Force:
- Cable
- Shatterstar

X-Factor:
- Havok
- Random

Excalibur:
- Nightcrawler
- Phoenix

Others:
- Apocalypse
- Colossus
- Exodus
- Magneto
- Sabretooth
- Sauron

30 YEARS OF FABULOUS MUTANT FASHIONS

by Candy Fashionflash

Hello, darlings! Your ace fashion correspondent, Candy Fashionflash, is here with the inside scoop on the question that has the entire world of *haute couture* buzzing: Who are the best-dressed mutants, and what are they wearing?

Since that first day when my close personal friend Jean Grey walked into Professor Xavier's *exclusive* school, wearing the cutest blue and black Chanel suit, mutants have been the darlings of the fashion world. And why not? With Jean's savvy sense of style, it didn't take long for her to dump those frumpy longjohns she started out in, and redesign her costume into a way-ginchy green mini dress — embellished by a *precious* wide belt worn mod-style at the hip. And with that figure of hers (I don't know *how* she can eat all those hot fudge sundaes and stay slim!), she was modeling bathing suits in no time.

All this simply *eons* before the first Marvel Swimsuit extravaganza!

Years later another dear friend of mine, Kitty Pryde, walked her way through the walls — and into the hearts of the gang at Professor Xavier's place — wearing a pair of totally fab bell bottoms and platforms. And best of all, they're back in style! Kitty, I *do* hope you saved them, along with that simply *stunning* pink denim jacket and matching newsboy cap, too.

Kitty tells me absolutely *everything,* but she never has been able to explain why readers *love* to design new outfits, just for her. 'Way back when, Filipino comics fan Senen Antonio sent in a design for the *coolest* tights 'n tunic outfit, and a year later my *close* personal friend Trina Robbins came up with three of the *dearest* creations, which came as a great surprise to me, because — between you and me, darlings — I never felt that she could design her way out of a paper bag! But I especially liked the little fur-trimmed skating outfit *avec* poodle.

What's next: Kitty Pryde paper dolls, hmmm?

As for my very best friend, Ororo — back when she was a goddess in Kenya, she didn't have a thing to wear — and I mean that literally! (Unless you can count that amusing little skirt, belted low on the hip and split up to where it's almost *indecent!*)

But Ororo and I are as close as two peas in a pod, and she tells me *everything,* so I happen to know that the storm goddess just adores skimpy white outfits. Once, when she turned *very* naughty and briefly became a kinda 'Dark Storm,' she wore an outfit a lot like her original darling white sarong, with a precious filmy stole added for modesty's sake. And there was the time when the whole X-crew were stranded in The Savage Land — Storm adopted the *hottest* little ensemble made of soft white leather and macrame.

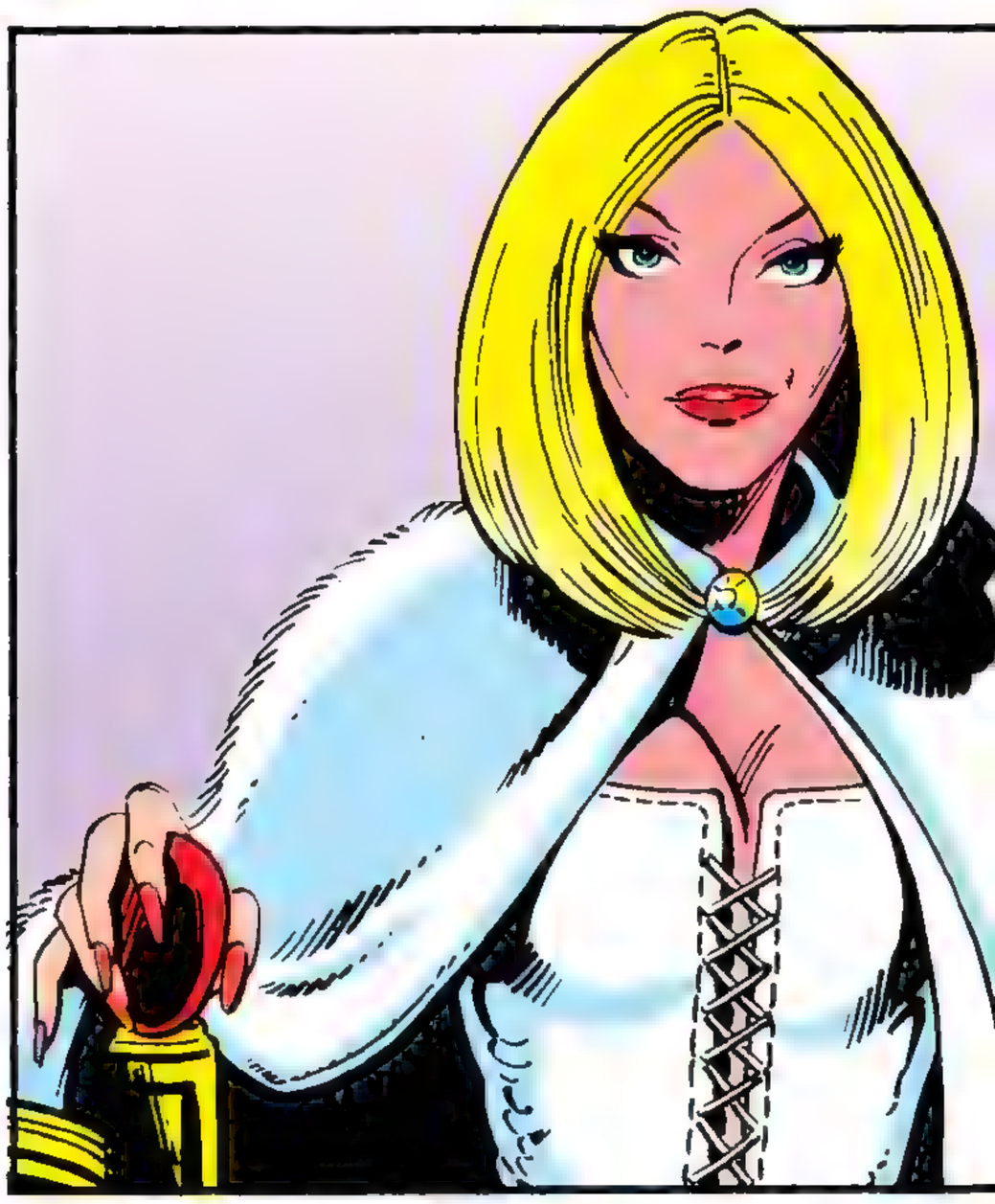
"How can she eat all those hot fudge sundaes and stay slim?"

"We are, after all, talking about Ororo's body—and what a *body*!"

"The storm goddess just adores skimpy white outfits."

As a fab fashion designer, Chris is simply made in the shade..."

"I wonder how the kids will like having a teacher who wears a *bustier?*"



Speaking of white leather, I liked Ororo best in her way-kinky White Queen outfit. Of course, Ororo's body was really being possessed by Emma Frost (who *certainly* has better taste than Linda Blair, darlings!), but let's not get nit-picky. We are, after all, talking about Ororo's body — and *what* a body! In fact, the only mutant who could match Ororo in that outfit was Jean Grey, when she became The *Black* Queen! Emma Peel, look out!

By the way, darlings, my dear friend, that *total* studmuffin Chris Bachalo, has confided in me that Emma Frost — The White Queen herself — will join this new Generation X, and become *very* naughty-but-nice, although she'll *never* give up her white leather! Good girls can wear leather, too, you know, and remember — you heard it here first!

But we mustn't forget the boys, must we, darlings? Since we first saw that totally awesome Warren Worthington III — A.K.A. Angel (he's rich and single too, girls. . .what a catch!) — looking just *scrumptious* in his long red Doctor Denton's, those studmuffins have been breaking the hearts of us poor girls across the country.

Like The Angel, Sam "Cannonball" Guthrie was *always* a sweet and quiet kinda farm boy (and we just love those country boy heart throbs, don't we ladies?). But that didn't stop him from becoming an absolute *boy-toy* when Lila Cheney dressed him up in black leather and studs? Yum! Of course, Lila, in matching-but-briefer black leather, has been something of a cross-galaxy trend-setter herself, am I right?

It happens that my *personal* best fave rave is the Prof himself — Charles Xavier (I simply *adore* smart guys!) — the cutest baldy in the world. (Patrick Stewart, step aside!) While it's true that he *did* look so-o-o macho in that gangster-style pinstripe double-breasted number he always wore back in the old days, I prefer the totally awesome Banana Republic khakis 'n buckles he sported before he got wheelchair-bound. Educated, yet swashbuckling, if you get my drift, darlings. So naturally I'm absolutely *delirious* with joy that these days Professor Xavier's once more in turtlenecks and military-style jackets. I just *love* a man in uniform!

Speaking of sexy baldies, how could I leave out that utter studmuffin-and-a-half, Guido? Darlings, there's something about that big lug, the sweet way he wears his baseball cap backwards with that *adorable* white tuft of hair popping out, that turns me into runny marshmallow! Of course, Guido and I are like two socks in a washer, so I've seen the private side of him — like when he cleans house in that oh-so-*precioso* fluffy apron. Guido's so-o-o big and strong that he isn't threatened by so-called "woman's work." And it's so nice to have a man around the house! (Make it so!)

Just the other day I was sitting by the pool, sipping piña coladas with my *close* personal friend, Chris Bachalo, at his fabulous Hollywood digs overlooking the L.A. River, when he gave me the exclusive skinnies about that *way* fantastic new — and very 90s — group of mutants, Generation X. Now darlings, as a fab fashion designer, Chris is simply made in the shade, so I hang on his every word. "Definitely the best dressed of the whole group", he said firmly, "is M. She comes from a very rich family, shops at Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom, and wears designer clothes by Donna Karan."

Remember you heard it here, first!

The rest of Generation X? Well, darlings, according to Chris — and he tells me *everything* — there's Husk, Chamber, Banshee, Synch, Penance, Jubilee, and Skin. You already know about The White Queen, right? I wonder how the kids will like having a teacher who wears a *bustier?* I simply can't imagine one on Miss Hagenbaumer from the fourth grade!

Oh, and one more — that hot little Samoan studmuffin, Mondo. Chris says that he dresses in aloha shirts and baggies. I asked, "No lava lava?" (I *adore* a guy in a sarong!)

"No lava lava," said Chris. Too bad.

But really, darlings, even M couldn't possibly look as good as simply *everyone* did for the wedding of Jean Grey and Scott Summers, could she? It was the fashion event of the year, and I was there, of course. Let me tell you, the sight of all those *fantabulous* femmes in silks 'n laces, all those boy toys squeezed into their tuxes, and the blushing bride herself, utterly *glowing* in Nicole Miller's *fabuloso* satin strapless gown design, well — oh dear, I hope you'll excuse me, but (sniff) I *always* cry at weddings!

All I can say is, if fashion is a super power, the mutants have obviously inherited the right jeans (it's a joke, darlings!). But is it really that time? I must run; my dearest friend Sue Storm wants me to redesign her costume — again.

'Bye for now, darlings!

When it comes to fashion, the superstars — from Barbie to Wonder Woman — ask ace fashion correspondent ***Candy Fashionflash*** *for the inside scoop.*

"I just love a man in uniform."

"Charles Xavier— the cutest baldy in the world."

GEN X FILES

MARK BUCKINGHAM

GENERATION X inker Mark Buckingham grew up in England reading, as he put it, "juvenile English literature" such as *Pippin*, which featured characters from British children's programs. But these were not the comics that inspired Mark to pursue a career in comics.

"The comics that really hooked me were black-and-white reprints of old Marvels that we used to get in this country from 1972 onwards," he explained. "There was one in particular called **THE MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL** that used to reprint classic old Hulk episodes and some of the more exciting and cosmic Fantastic Four stories with the introduction of the Inhumans and Galactus.

"From that moment — at age six — comics totally took me over and, apart from a brief flirtation with working in animation instead, I've pretty much wanted to do comics ever since."

This brief animation flirtation was with the Aardman Animation Studios, the winner of the 1992 and 1993 Academy Awards for short animated subject. While Mark was with the studio, he help created a piece entitled "Babylon," which was nominated for an Academy Award but did not win. He also worked on Peter Gabriel's "Sledgehammer" video, a thrill for Mark, who is a big Peter Gabriel fan.

Buckingham worked with Aardman on-and-off in 1986 and 1987, at the same time as he was getting a design degree at Staffordshire University. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors in a multi-discipline design course which included photography, audio-visual design, 3-D work, textiles, and graphic illustration, although Mark admits illustration was his specialty.

While at school, Mark began doing comic work for fanzines working alongside other local talents such as *Mister X* artist Shane Oakley and D'Israeli, artist on "Metalscream" for **2099 UNLIMITED #4**. "We were all sort of trying to break into comics at the same time, but I managed to jump ahead," Mark recalled with a laugh.

From 1988 to 1993, Mark was inking many of DC's Vertigo titles such as *Hellblazer*, *Sandman*, *Shade, the Changing Man*, and *Death: The High Cost of Living* — which found Mark working for the first time with Chris Bachalo. "I was so very pleased with [the *Death* limited series]," he confided. "That's why I am so terribly fussy and always want to work with Chris these days — because I had such a good time with that. I tend to sort of follow him around now."

Mark's first work for Marvel was inking the **IMMORTALS** limited series for the Frontier Imprint of the Marvel UK line. This was followed by inking the lead story in the 1993 **GHOST RIDER ANNUAL**, a story Chris Bachalo penciled. The collaboration on this story was so successful that they landed the art chores for **GHOST RIDER 2099**'s first three issues. Mark also inked Peter Gross for #4, and penciled and inked #5 himself. He penciled and inked the covers for issues #2-7 and will continue to contribute art to the series from time to time.

"I think comics are the best place to be," Mark offered. "There's a phrase that we used to use in my old fanzine gang when we were up in Staffordshire. We used to always say that 'every day's a holiday in the wacky world of comics.'

"Although sometimes it could be a bit fraught when the deadline pressures come in," he continued, "I do enjoy every moment of drawing comic books. It's just such a satisfying medium, being able to create these worlds just with pen and paper. It's *marvelous*. Oops, sorry — unintentional pun there."

— Stephen Vrattos

Ofttime super-hero Stephen Vrattos *has contributed to* ***MARVEL AGE*** *as well as the Flair Marvel '94 trading card set. He recently crossed into the Marvel Universe as writer of an upcoming* ***MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS*** Speedball story.

Looking at the list of books that **GENERATION X** letterer Richard Starkings has worked or is working on, one may think it's Marvel's entire monthly shipping list. A reader may see Richard's work on **BLADE, GHOST RIDER 2099, X-FACTOR, CABLE, TRANSFORMERS**, SLEEPWALKER, **NOVA, NIGHT THRASHER, PUNISHER/BATMAN,** as well as the **ADVENTURES OF CYCLOPS AND PHOENIX, DEADPOOL, GAMBIT, SABRETOOTH,** and **MARVELS** limited series.

What's even more startling than the extent of his work is that, at the age of 32, Richard has already been in the comic industry for twenty-two years.

At ten, Richard started selling comics for his brother who was a dealer at comic book marts in Liverpool and Leeds in England. His brother paid Richard in comics. At seventeen, Richard was active in *Dr. Who* fandom and began writing and illustrating a four-panel Dr. Who gag strip for the Dr.'s fanzine — *Tardis*. Over the following seven years he produced 100 strips for the magazine, the last two years of which while he was working for Marvel UK.

Richard's first Marvel UK work was lettering the UK version of **TRANSFORMERS**. When Marvel UK titles invaded the States, he was the editor on the initial run of **DEATH'S HEAD** and **THE SLEEZE BROTHERS**, before he started his lettering duties on **TRANSFORMERS** (this time for the U.S.). In fact, Richard will be lettering the final issue of TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION 2 ten years to the month after he got his very first work on the title.

It was the lettering on an English newspaper strip that first inspired Richard to become a letterer. The strip was called *The Perishers* and was much like Charles Schultz's *Peanuts* strip. The title comes from the English expression, "perishing kids" which means "bloody kids" or "rascals."

"The artist's lettering style was particularly beautiful," he explained. Richard was also greatly impressed with Tom Orzechowski's lettering work on the classic Chris Claremont/John Byrne stint of the **UNCANNY X-MEN**.

"As a lettering artist, what's foremost in my mind is only to enhance the way the story flows," he explained. "Lettering is the art of being invisible. Balloon placement should never impede the flow. I want to give way — not get in the way — of the story.

"Complement rather than insult it," he continued. "Therefore I try to make the letters as crisp and clean, and easy to read as possible." Richard is most proud of his work with Bret Blevins on **SLEEPWALKER**. "In the UK, I cut my teeth on **TRANSFORMERS**. In America, I cut my teeth on **SLEEPWALKER**."

RICHARD STARKINGS

In 1992, Richard founded Comicraft, a California-based company specializing in computer lettering for comic books. Comicraft occupies the office space directly across from Steve Buccellato's Electric Crayon company, so it is no wonder that the two will be working together on **GENERATION X.**

Comicraft has created a method that permits an electronic file to be made of the lettering that is then placed over the color scan, so that the lettering never touches the actual art page. "The lettering is actually married with the color separation," Richard explained. "A copy of the page can be printed up for editorial approval and all corrections can be done on screen. There is never a need for paste-up work."

Richard is pioneering this method with Steve on Marvel's **PUNISHER/BATMAN** book, as well as **GENERATION X.** "We are stretching the envelope, boldly going where no coloring or lettering has gone before."

— Stephen Vrattos

GEN X FILES

GEN X FILES

STEVE BUCCELLATO

In a day when meeting a true New Yorker (born and raised in the Big Apple) is rare, **GENERATION X** colorist Steve Buccellato has the unique distinction of having lived in every borough in New York City save Staten Island.

Steve has colored some of Marvel's premier books, including **CAPTAIN AMERICA, FANTASTIC FOUR,** and **DAREDEVIL.** He colored the **GAMBIT** and **SABRE TOOTH** mini-series and will continue to color **SPIDER-MAN 2099, WOLVERINE** and **UNCANNY X-MEN** as he takes on **GENERATION X.**

Steve's comic book career began when he was attending the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan, where he started making his own comics as well as organizing others to do so. "I was the editor-in-chief of these stupid little comics we sold," Steve remarked with a laugh. His flagship character was called "Weasel Guy," a taxidermist who ventured out one day to find a giant rodent to stuff. He discovered — and was bitten by — a seven-foot radioactive weasel. "It was a giant Wolverine swipe with these big claws," Steve admitted, "but it was humorous."

At age 17, while in his junior year at the school, Steve became an intern at Marvel, and has worked non-stop for the company ever since. While an intern, he says his "artistic skills grew tremendously" due to his penchant for hanging out with Romita's Raiders and having Art Director John Romita critique his work.

After graduation, Steve wanted to attend Parsons School of Design but because of financial difficulties was unable to do so. Fortunately, he gained a secretarial position with the Epic Comics division at Marvel. This led to his promotion to assistant editor, and then associate editor, at Epic, working for Archie Goodwin and Dan Chichester on the Shadowline titles which included **DR. ZERO, ST. GEORGE,** and **POWERLINE.** It was as an assistant editor that Steve started freelancing as a colorist to supplement his income.

Editors quickly came to utilize Steve as a colorist, not only because he was good, but also because he was fast. "I got a lot of rush work," he explained. "When I did an overnight book, it looked almost as good as if I'd spent a lot more time on it."

Steve's success in the coloring field may be attributed to his personal philosophies on the subject. "The most unsatisfying thing about coloring," he explained, "is that there is not a lot of yourself in the work. I'm here to enhance the artist's work, not to make it my own. A bad colorist can ruin good artwork, whereas a good colorist can really punch up a mediocre artist.

"Editors are largely ignorant of what good coloring is," he continued. "It's not just picking pretty colors. There is a lot of storytelling involved. There should be a reason for every color you put down."

Steve commented that one possible reason for this ignorance is that coloring is the last step before the book goes to the printers. "As long as the editors get it quick, and it's not horrendous, they're happy."

Last December, Steve help found Electric Crayon, a company specializing in computer coloring separations. The company's first work will be the **PUNISHER/BATMAN** team-up for Marvel. Steve was thrilled to work with colorist Christie Scheele on this project and looks forward to using his computer coloring expertise on **GENERATION X.** The new X-title will be the first *monthly* Marvel title to utilize computer colorization.

— Stephen Vrattos

Ask **GENERATION X** Editor Bob Harras what he, as a child, wanted to be when he grew up, and the answer may raise a few eyebrows. "I wanted to be a network exec," he replied. "I didn't know what a network exec was, *per se,* but I knew there was someone who canceled TV shows and said, 'This show goes on.' I wanted to be someone who could do that and say, 'Let's do this story.' I remember that." Bob further explained that his desire may have come from the cancellation of a favorite television program. "I never got over the loss of *The Time Tunnel,*" he revealed.

Bob originally believed that his goals would be fulfilled by becoming a cartoonist. "I used to cartoon, so I always thought that I would have my own comic strip when I grew up," he explained. "In school, I was the cartoonist. I was the artist. I would do very Disneyesque characters. I was getting so sweet. . .that I wanted to shoot myself.

"I'd do these kids with big eyes," he continued. "They would all look like the young King Arthur in Disney's *Sword in the Stone."*

Bob admitted to only reading Marvel comic books as a kid. "I would read a *Superman* every once in a while — when he was on Krypton. That's the only time that I liked Superman." Bob's favorite titles were **FANTASTIC FOUR** and **THE AVENGERS,** a book he writes today. "I never read **THE X-MEN** as a kid. That came later."

Bob graduated from the State University of New York at Stony Brook with a major in American History and a minor in English Literature. "I had no idea what I was going to do with my life," he admitted. "I went looking for jobs that I didn't think were going to be normal. I looked for publishing jobs."

Bob went to Marvel, where he discovered that there were no openings available, but he filled out an application anyway. He then had an interview with Harcourt, Brace, and World, a major publisher with offices in New York City. "I was promptly taken up to have lunch with the VP of something," he explained, "and I was offered a job.

"I was panicking, because I hated the idea of editing text books. When I got back to my folks' house that day, there was a phone call from Marvel saying that the editorial assistant's position had opened up and would I come in for an interview. So I turned down a job with Harcourt, Brace, and World — which was more money — and I worked here."

BOB HARRAS

Bob became the editorial assistant at Marvel, a job he described as a "glorified mailboy," collecting art and making sure that it went out to the right people. Two months later, Ralph Macchio was promoted to editor. "I became his assistant editor on **ROM, DAZZLER, CRYSTAR,** and **U.S.1,** the classics of our generation," Bob noted wryly.

Over the next three years, Bob worked his way up from assistant to associate to full editor. His first book, appropriately enough, was **X-FACTOR.** When Ann Nocenti departed staff several years later, it was Bob's experience on **X-FACTOR** that landed him the job as editor on the X-titles.

"I think they should be about characters," Bob said, noting his view on comics. "They should be continuing stories about characters. I really believe that who they battle every month is not half as interesting as who they *are.* That's what I think made Marvel different back when I was a kid, and I think that's one of the reasons why **THE X-MEN** is so successful — because it's the lives of these people, and they do change."

— Stephen Vrattos

GEN X FILES

The Salem Centurion

Volume 1, Issue 1 ⊗ **September**

Published for alumni and friends of:
PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS

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Friends, welcome to our first quarterly newsletter!

Located one hour north of New York City in beautiful Salem Center, a township of Westchester County, *Professor Charles Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters* is an institution dedicated to recruiting and educating Homo Sapiens Superior (mutants) who are inexperienced in the use of their "extra" abilities. Through a strict curriculum and an advanced class regimen, the school's students learn to cope with their wondrous powers, often honing them to perfection. *The Xavier School* also teaches tolerance of those who are different and/or have opposing views. Professor Charles Xavier's philosophy promotes the cohabitation of humans and mutants in a peaceful manner. The true measure of a pupil's success is determined by the degree to which he or she adopts and promotes these ideals after graduation ...

ALUMNI — XAVIER SCHOOL/XAVIER INSTITUTE

ARCHANGEL (Worthington III, Warren) — formerly of X-Factor, New Defenders, Champions
MAJOR: Business Administration
Archangel is currently a member of the X-Men Gold Team.

BEAST (McCoy, Henry) — formerly of X-Factor, New Defenders, Avengers, Brand Corp.
MAJOR: Biophysics and Physical Education
Beast is currently a member of the X-Men Blue Team.

BIRD-BRAIN — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Aeronautics
Bird-Brain is currently the leader of "The Animates" on a remote island.

BISHOP — formerly of the XSE
MAJOR: History
Bishop is currently a member of the X-Men Gold Team.

CANNONBALL (Guthrie, Samuel) — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Physics
Sam withdrew from the school to become a member of X-Force.

CHANGELING — formerly of The X-Men, Factor Three
MAJOR: Acting
Changeling's studies ended with his untimely death.

COLOSSUS (Rasputin, Peter) — formerly of X-Men Gold team
MAJOR: Visual Arts
Peter withdrew from the school to join the Acolytes, after the death of his sister, Illyana.

CYCLOPS (Summers, Scott) — formerly of X-Factor
MAJOR: Political Science and Communications
Scott is currently leader of the X-Men Blue Team and is married to Jean Grey.

CYPHER (Ramsey, Douglas) — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Language and Computer Science
Doug's academic career was cut short by his untimely death.

DAZZLER (Blaire, Allison) — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: Voice and Studio Composition
Allison, a graduate, is currently associated with Longshot on Mojoworld.

GAMBIT (LeBeau, Remy) — formerly of the Thieves' Guild
MAJOR: Physical Education
Remy is currently a member of the X-Men Blue Team.

GREY, JEAN — formerly of X-Factor
MAJOR: Psychology and Physics
Jean is currently a member of the X-Men Gold Team and is married to Scott Summers.

HAVOK (Summers, Alexander) — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: Archaeology
Alex is currently leading the government-sanctioned X-Factor.

ICEMAN (Drake, Robert) — formerly of X-Factor, New Defenders, Champions
MAJOR: Accounting and Chemistry
Bobby is currently a member of the X-Men Gold Team.

JUBILEE (Lee, Jubilation) — X-Men Gold Team (former)
MAJOR: Angst and General Studies
Jubilation has transferred to the Massachusetts Academy.

KARMA (Coy Manh, Xi'an) — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Psychology/International Affairs
Xi'an has taken a leave of absence to locate her missing siblings.

LONGSHOT — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: Acting
Longshot currently resides (with Allison Blaire) on Mojoworld.

MAGIK (Rasputin, Illyana) — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Comparative Religion
Illyana met her untimely death due to the Legacy Virus.

MAGMA (Crestmere, Allison) — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Environmental Science and History
Allison has taken a leave of absence from the school.

MIMIC (Rankin, Calvin) — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: Acting and Political Science
Last seen in Canada, Calvin is presumed dead.

MOONSTAR (Moonstar, Danielle) — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Psychology and Political Science
Danielle is on leave of absence, and is affiliated with the Mutant Liberation Front.

MULTIPLE MAN (Madrox, James) — formerly of X-Factor
MAJOR: Social Science, Group Dynamics
Jamie, a member of X-Factor, recently passed away.

NIGHTCRAWLER (Wagner, Kurt) — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: Chemistry, Geography, and Physical Education
Kurt is currently leader of the U.K.-based Excalibur.

PHOENIX (inapplicable) — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: Psychology, Astronomy, and Physics
The Phoenix believed itself to be Jean Grey until it met its demise.

PHOENIX II (Summers, Rachel) — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: History, Psychology, and Physics
Rachel, the daughter of Scott Summers and Phoenix from an alternate timeline, is currently a member of Excalibur.

POLARIS (Dane, Lorna) — formerly of The X-Men, The Marauders
MAJOR: Archaeology
Lorna is currently a member of X-Factor.

PSYLOCKE (Braddock, Betsy)
MAJOR: Psychology and Physical Education
Betsy is currently a member of the X-Men Blue Team.

REVANCHE (Kwannon)
MAJOR: Asian Studies and Martial Arts
Revanche recently succumbed to the fatal Legacy Virus.

ROGUE — formerly of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants
MAJOR: Social Sciences
Rogue is currently a member of the X-Men Blue Team.

SHADOWCAT (Pryde, Katherine) — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: Computer Science
Katherine, affectionately called "Kitty" by her former classmates, is currently a member of Excalibur.

STORM (Munroe, Ororo)
MAJOR: Environmental Science and Political Science
Ororo is currently leader of the X-Men Gold Team.

SUNFIRE (Yoshida, Shiro) — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: Business Administration and International Affairs
Sunfire is an occasional ally of The X-Men.

SUNSPOT (DaCosta, Roberto) — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Business Administration and Physical Education
Bobby is currently missing in action.

THUNDERBIRD (Proudstar, John) — formerly of The X-Men
MAJOR: Physical Education
John's studies were cut short by his untimely death.

WARLOCK — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Design Technology
Warlock's studies were cut short by his untimely death.

WOLFSBANE (Sinclair, Rahne) — formerly of The New Mutants
MAJOR: Comparative Religions
Rahne is currently a member of X-Factor.

WOLVERINE (Logan) — formerly of The X-Men, Alpha Flight
MAJOR: Political Science and International Affairs
Logan has taken a leave of absence from the X-Men Blue Team.

The Xavier School is also affiliated with Emma Frost's *Massachusetts Academy*, which currently shares the Institute's goals and curriculum. If you know of any potential recruits for *Professor Charles Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, The Xavier Institute*, or *The Massachusetts Academy*, please contact:

Professor Charles Xavier
1407 Graymalkin Lane
Salem Center, N.Y.

(When writer **Karl Bollers** *isn't trying to crank his amps to eleven, he finds the extra time to be assistant editor on the brand spanking new Marvel Music line of comics.)*

BEYOND GENERATION X...

REALITY BITES

After paving the way for **GENERATION X**, the mutants of the X-Men family retire to a life of shuffleboard, Geritol, and naps in a cozy condo in Florida.

Or maybe not.

In truth, in the aftermath of "The Phalanx Covenant," the characters will be besieged by a storm of mystery, malady, and mayhem, closing out 1994 facing an evil that rises out of their past, threatening to obliterate their future.

And beginning in September, the core X-titles (**CABLE, EXCALIBUR, GENERATION X, UNCANNY X-MEN, WOLVERINE, X-FACTOR, X-MEN**) will spotlight significantly upgraded formats — slick paper, full-bleed

art, and top quality offset printing (capable of supporting the best of today's special effects) — to establish them as the "upper crust" of Marvel titles. At the same time, there will be standard editions (each on sale two weeks after the deluxe edition) allowing readers to pick up the less-expensive version, should they so wish.

Returning to the fold

The X-editors have resolved to link the titles more closely together to sew up any existing continuity gaps and to create a more cohesive mutant universe. The storylines running through **EXCALIBUR, CABLE, WOLVERINE,** and **X-FORCE** will be carefully orchestrated to eliminate any perceptions that these books may be peripheral — and not integral — chapters of the X-saga. Simultaneously, these stories will raise many new and significant questions to challenge readers.

"I'm tired of **EXCALIBUR** not being thought of as one of the primary X-Men books," Editor Suzanne Gaffney revealed. The series focus will shift as the European X-team deals with the presence of Douglock (the morbidly fused creature comprised of slain New Mutants Doug Ramsey and Warlock). There will be guest stars such as the enigmatic Bishop, and Professor Xavier will be transferred to Muir Island.

"Because Illyana (Colossus's sister and Magik of The New Mutants) is dead, her soul-sword is up for grabs," Group Editor Bob Harras noted. "So there will be a battle for power on Muir Island with Kitty Pryde caught up in the middle." During this trilogy adventure, written by Warren Ellis, Kitty be pitted alone against the villains Gravemoss and Shrill, as she tries to free Nightcrawler from their control.

The **CABLE** creative team will likewise tie their title to the mutant mainstream as Cable returns to the X-Mansion, only to discover a dark secret of one who seeks the deaths of the Dark Riders. This turn of events will lead Cable, Domino, Caliban, and Storm to Egypt, there to learn more about the Riders and the figure who leads them. Events in issues #17-20 will force Cable to face the fact that he *himself* may hold the key to defeat the devastating Legacy Virus.

By returning to help battle The Phalanx, Logan has introduced more turmoil into his own life, and in **WOLVERINE** in months to come, he will collide with the unstoppable Juggernaut and regain his much-valued healing factor. The group he left (after having his skeleton's adamantium torn out) has changed significantly in his absence. How will Wolverine cope with the presence of Sabretooth as a patient at the X-Mansion? Will the marriage of Jean Grey, one of his great loves, to Cyclops drive him away from The X-Men forever? Might his destination be Madripoor?

Continuing the continuity closure, **X-FORCE** will bring Cable's team of angst-ridden young adults to a new East Coast headquarters and closer together as a family. Harras assured that the likelihood of them being mistaken for *The Brady Bunch* is slim, though, as they will soon combat an evil growing from within. Even as Feral's sister, Thorn, is arrested for murder, "they'll deal with discovering Feral's true nature — it's the down side of being bestial and not being repressed. The readers will see a Feral they've never seen before," he promised. And while Thorn may be headed for prison, Shatterstar may be headed back to his extra-dimensional home.

X-FACTOR unleashes a legion of evil

X-FACTOR will balance the scales with storylines which feature close character introspection and massive upheaval surrounding the government-sanctioned group. In the closing months of 1994, readers will discover that the pages of **X-FACTOR** may hold the secrets to a dramatic restructuring of the *entire* X-Men family of titles, even as **X-MEN 2099** writer John Francis Moore joins the creative team.

Editor Kelly Corvese elaborated, "In issue #107, Guido (the energy-absorbing Strong Guy) is pushed beyond his limits, and he can't expel his energies. Over the next four issues, he's going to have *major* mutant health problems that could be the end of him.

"We'll also focus on Wolfsbane's relationship with her foster father. Reverend Craig raised Rahne and then he got rid of her (in the original **NEW MUTANTS** graphic novel). He thought she was a devil spawn. We're going to explore why he did that. We also have so much to learn about Havok's past, and about how Mr. Sinister was involved," Corvese hinted.

Corvese also pointed towards a major shift in the title's focus. "Sometimes we write ourselves into a corner, where every issue becomes like an episode of *Charlie's Angels*, with Charlie saying, 'We have a new assignment for you.' We're steering away from that. Until the death of Jamie (Madrox the Multiple Man), they were just a government group — now they need each other; they're taking a more personal approach, doing things for themselves," Corvese explained, adding that he hopes to foster this personal commitment as the team hunts and confronts the shape-changing Mystique, Nightcrawler's mother and one-time lover of Forge.

"Forge and Val Cooper figure out that Mystique didn't die in **X-MEN UNLIMITED #4**, when she plunged down a waterfall. She wants revenge on Legion [the son of Professor X] for killing Destiny all those years ago," Bob Harras added.

"In [**X-FACTOR**] #108 and #109, Forge and Val Cooper go after Mystique in Israel. Mystique is going after Legion to kill him, and all hell breaks loose when [Legion] wakes up. All three of Legion's personalities have melded into one being, combining his telepathic, telekinetic, and pyrokinetic powers. After issue #109, Legion's story continues into the other X-books," Corvese explained. Legion's goal: destroy all mutants.

Two titles, one adventure

Before the X-Men Blue and Gold teams face their *massive* upheaval in December, Legion's return will segue into **X-MEN** and **UNCANNY X-MEN**, and individual members will contend with disasters on a personal level in both titles. "Gambit and Sabretooth are going to have a real heart-to-heart talk concerning their past, as explored in their Paris adventure [in **X-MEN #33**]. We're going to see a darker side of Gambit," Harras foretold.

X-treme will be searching for answers to the mystery of Mr. Milbury, and in doing so will encounter Cyclops's *grandfather*, this leading to a confrontation with The X-Men. Jubilee will depart for **GENERATION X**; Bishop will accept the fact that he is stuck in the past; Psylocke will find a way to regain her powers, and she and Archangel will flirt with romance; and Iceman will have to struggle with the prospect that he was possessed by Emma Frost (The White Queen and current co-teacher of Generation X). The team will also confront the historic closing of *The Xavier School for Gifted Youngsters* and the opening of the new *Massachusetts Academy* and *The Xavier Institute*.

Dark rumblings will thunder on the horizon for The X-Men in the opening months of 1995. "There will be a major storyline in January which will spread into all the X-books and lead into a different type of X-Men," Harras teased.

The X-Titles

Title: CABLE
Format: Monthly, 32 pages
Standard: $1.50
Deluxe: $1.95
Writer: Jeph Loeb
Penciler: Steve Skroce
Inker: Mike Sellers & David Brewer

Title: GENERATION X
Format: Monthly, 32 pages
Standard: $1.50
Deluxe: $1.95
Writer: Scott Lobdell
Penciler: Chris Bachalo
Inker: Mark Buckingham

Title: EXCALIBUR
Format: Monthly, 32 pages
Standard: $1.50
Deluxe: $1.95
Writer: Warren Ellis
Penciler: Ken Lashley
Inker: Cam Smith

Title: UNCANNY X-MEN
Format: Monthly, 32 pages
Standard: $1.50
Deluxe: $1.95
Writer: Scott Lobdell
Penciler: Joe Madureira, Roger Cruz
Inker: Dan Green

Title: WOLVERINE
Format: Monthly, 32 pages
Standard: $1.50
Deluxe: $1.95
Writer: Larry Hama
Penciler: Adam Kubert
Inker: Mark Farmer

Title: X-FACTOR
Format: Monthly, 32 pages
Standard: $1.50
Deluxe: $1.95
Plot: John Francis Moore
Script: Todd Dezaga
Penciler: Steve Epting
Inker: Al Milgrom

Title: X-FORCE
Format: Monthly, 32 pages
Standard: $1.50
Deluxe: $1.95
Writer: Fabian Nicieza
Penciler: Tony Daniel
Inker: Kevin Conrad

Title: X-MEN
Format: Monthly, 32 pages.
Standard: $1.50
Deluxe: $1.95
Writer: Fabian Nicieza
Penciler: Andy Kubert
Inker: Matt Ryan

Title: X-MEN ADVENTURES SEASON 3
Format: Monthly, 32 pages
Price: $1.50
Writer: Ralph Macchio
Penciler: John Hebert
Inker: Greg Adams

Title: X-MEN UNLIMITED
Format: Quarterly, 64 pages
Price: $3.95
Writer: Howard Mackie
Penciler: John Romita, Jr.

Unlimited adventures

As the Second Season closes and the Third Season run begins, **X-MEN ADVENTURES** will continue to reinterpret episodes of the Fox animated series for comic book form. Issue #10 brings the spotlight on The Beast, his romance with a blind girl, and the violence it evokes from the Friends of Humanity. In issue #11, the team will travel to Mojoworld — the home base for the hyper-maniac Mojo and the rebellious Longshot — where television ratings are everything and the game shows don't send losers home, they send them to the grave. The two-part "season finale" reunites the team with Professor X in the Savage Land, but Morph and Mr. Sinister are waiting to ruin the party. And on which side will Magneto stand?

"These stories take place outside of the X-continuity. People who don't normally read the comics can understand them. This way, we can combine different ideas from over the years," Harras commented.

"**X-MEN UNLIMITED #7** will feature Storm, Jean Grey, and Gambit. It will deal with Storm's past as a thief in Cairo. Gambit, himself being a thief, fits in nicely. It will also explore Jean Grey's and Storm's friendship. They're best friends, but we haven't been able to explore this because of all the adventures they've been in recently," Kelly Corvese said.

"**X-MEN UNLIMITED #7** features a limited number of characters, but an unlimited amount of characterizations. You get to see what their core problems and personalities are. It's going back and exploring their roots," Corvese explained.

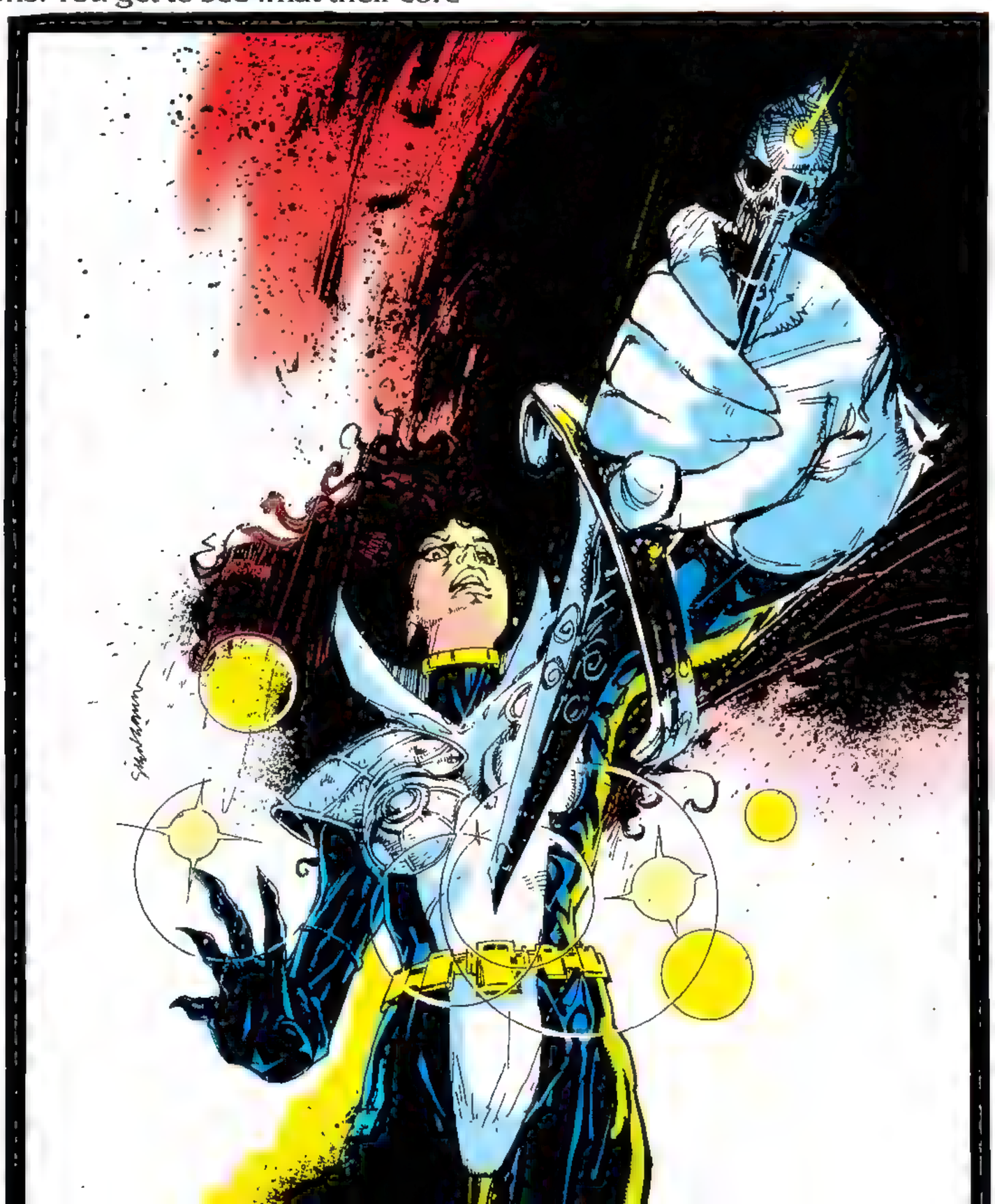
X marks the spot

While events threaten to alter the lives of Marvel's mutants, the X-Men family editors conveyed that they are dedicated to maintaining and focusing upon the aspects they feel make their books unique. "The X-Men explore what it's like to be 'the other, or alienated. We attack that on different levels," Harras said.

"People can relate to the characters. Even though they have cool powers, they're 'different.' Teenagers can relate to that. I see these stories as mirroring reality. The Legacy Virus is similar to AIDS, while the story of the mutants has often explored racism. Hopefully readers will learn something valuable from this, rather than how to punch someone in the face," Corvese commented.

Whether these characters are seen as parallels for misunderstood teenagers, persecuted minorities, or cool heroes, their following has spawned an entire X-Men family of titles. While discussing the past, present, and things to come, the editors expressed that they feel they have tapped into characters who embody the zeitgeist, or spirit of the times. If they do act as a sign of the times, by the end of the year, it may be one that reads "the end is near."

A sales assistant at St. Martin's Press, writer **Bill Rosemann** *lives in the hometown of Frank Sinatra.*



eXTRAS

Bookshelf edition adventures for Wolverine and Colossus, some of The X-Men's greatest battles, and the *first* solo outings for two of the team's most popular characters — these highlight some of the more unusual mutant mayhem scheduled for release this fall.

Limited Series

Rogue and Bishop kick off the season as they each star in their first limited series, and are faced with old enemies out for revenge.

ROGUE:

The southern adventuress's solo adventure will feature "all of the usual suspects," according to Editor Lisa Patrick. The four-issue limited series, written by Howard Mackie (**GAMBIT, SPIDER-MAN** and **GHOST RIDER**) with art by Mike Wieringo (*The Flash*), picks up from last winter's successful **GAMBIT** limited series. It also features Gambit, the Thieves and Assassins Guilds, and especially Gambit's wife — assassin Bella Donna.

The story revolves around the assassin leader's revenge against Rogue for stealing Bella Donna's ex-husband *and* her memories. Bella Donna takes control of both guilds and kidnaps Rogue's friend, Cody, in order to force Rogue to face what X-editor Bob Harras calls "the crisis of her young life."

"She has to deal with Bella Donna's actions even as she sorts out her feelings for Gambit," Patrick said. "It's an action story with a good deal of romance."

BISHOP:

Writer John Ostrander (*Magnus, Suicide Squad, Spectre*), penciler Carlos Pacheco (**DARK GUARD**), and inker Cam Smith (**HULK**) present this tale of revenge and redemption as the X-Man from the future must face an archenemy from the future. "In the story, Bishop goes up against Mountjoy — the most dangerous villain Bishop and his sister [Shard] ever captured in the future. Mountjoy has come back to The X-Men's time to seek out Bishop and exact his revenge," Editor Suzanne Gaffney explained. Mountjoy has the sadistic ability to allow himself to be absorbed *into* the body of any foe.

"The series should provide fans a long-awaited look into the character of Bishop and explain more about his life *before* he came back in time to join The X-Men," she elaborated.

Bookshelf Editions

Adventures both new and old feature solo outings by Wolverine and Colossus, and X-Men adventures from yesteryear highlight the bookshelf editions due out this fall.

WOLVERINE/FURY — SCORPIO RISING: In October, Howard Chaykin (**WOLVERINE/FURY: THE SCORPIO CONNECTION**) returns to the swashbuckling duo and their battle with the evil Scorpio. He is joined by artist Shawn McManus as the international villain steals the Cosmic Key and uses it to destroy all who oppose him, even X-Men and Agents of Shield.

WOLVERINE — EVILUTION: This new 48-page bookshelf edition, out in September, revolves around Logan's search for the missing Spear of Destiny. The offbeat adventure is written by a writer who *specializes* in the offbeat, former X-editor Ann Nocenti (**DAREDEVIL**, *Kid Eternity*), with rough layouts by Mark Texiera (**PUNISHER, SABRETOOTH, WOLVERINE**) and finished pencils by John Royal.

COLOSSUS — GOD'S COUNTRY: Ann Nocenti strikes again as this 64-page bookshelf edition collects the story of Colossus's trip back to his Russian homeland following the fall of the Soviet Union. The action by Nocenti, with art by Rick Leonardi, was first serialized in **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #10-17.**

X-MEN — GOD LOVES, MAN KILLS: The first X-Men graphic novel by Chris Claremont and Brent Anderson, available again in a new 64-page bookshelf edition, is still one of the most famous and most pivotal.

THE NEW MUTANTS: Also now a bookshelf edition, the original mutant graphic novel introduced Charles Xavier's first new class since the formation of the "New" X-Men as told by Claremont and Bob McCleod (*Superman*).

Trade Paperbacks

These collections, some new, some re-releases, offer pivotal storylines from X-history, to form the definitive X-library and allow new readers to catch up on events they may have missed.

THE DARK PHOENIX SAGA: The tale of Jean Grey and the all-powerful Phoenix force, by Claremont and John Byrne, to be adapted this fall on Fox's *X-Men* animated series.

FROM THE ASHES: Is Phoenix back from the dead? That's what Mastermind wants The X-Men to believe in this edition in which Rogue joins the team.

X-TINCTION AGENDA: Genoshan military leaders kidnap members of The X-Men, X-Force, and X-Factor, leading to an all-out rescue mission.

FANTASTIC FOUR vs. THE X-MEN: Kitty Pryde is fading away and Mr. Fantastic mysteriously refuses to save her, so she turns to his hated enemy — Dr. Doom — for help in this trade paperback that collects the four-part limited series by Chris Claremont and Jon Bogdanove (**POWER PACK**, *Man of Steel*).

Hidden X-tras

X-Men turn up in the oddest places:

Posters, Porcelain, and Pasta:

The mutants are slated to appear on a wide variety of special items, including the *Xavier Institute* class ring (gold, silver, and bronze-pewter), and the hand-painted and individually numbered porcelain *Wolverine* and *Gambit* limited edition statues (by the Randy Bowen Studio).

General Mills is releasing *X-Men Fruit Shape Snacks* in October with package art by Terry Shoemaker, Scott Koblish, and Paul Mounts, and Chef Boy-Ar-Dee is offering *X-Men Pasta* early next year.

The cover to this **GENERATION X COLLECTORS' PREVIEW** and the Brothers Hildebrandt painted nine-card chase set from *Ultra X-Men* trading cards will become full-size posters in September, and painter Bob Larkin's Bishop is slated for November. Posters slated for January are Alex Ross's painted interpretation of the **(UNCANNY) X-MEN #1** cover, a Tom Grindberg/Paul Mounts *Wolverine*, and *Cable* by Marc Sasso. And there will be a special interlocking Mucha-like pair of works starring *Gambit* and *Rogue* (penciled by Joe Quesada, inked by Joe Rubinstein and Jimmy Palmiotti, painted in oils by Rubinstein).

Marvel Milestone: X-Men #28:

X-MEN #28, the first appearance of **GENERATION X**'s Banshee by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, and Werner Roth, will be re-issued, in which the sonic mutant appears as a complex and mysterious international *villain*.

X-Men — The Early Years:

This series offers the seminal Lee/Kirby adventures of the *original* team with new covers by hot artists Tom Raney, Mike Parobek, Carlos Pacheco, Cam Smith, and Lee Weeks.

X-Men Classic:

The *original* reprint series has reached the days of Forge, Storm, Nimrod, Chris Claremont, John Romita, Jr., and Barry Windsor-Smith, with new covers by the likes of Tom Grummett and Brian Stelfreeze.

What If?!:

On the heels of August's **WHAT IF?!: What if Rogue Had Possessed the Power of Thor,** two other major mutant storylines are in the works for this series, which takes key moments in Marvel history and examines what might have happened had the stream of events run a different course. **What If Stryfe Had Killed The X-Men?** (by Mariano Nicieza and Mark Pacella) picks up on the drama of "The X-Cutioner's Song", and in **What If Mr. Sinister Formed The X-Men?** (by Simon Furman and [tentatively] Craig Brasfield), Mr. Sinister gathers Cyclops, the Jean Grey clone, and another group of mutants even as Professor Xavier develops his own team. Yet-to-be scheduled, these are planned to appear within the next six months.

Spider-Man Magazine:

"Many fans may have missed the X-Men short stories we present in every issue of **SPIDER-MAN MAGAZINE**," Editor Michael Teitelbaum said. In addition to the articles and games in every issue, there's an all-new X-Men story by writers such as Kelly Corvese (**X-FACTOR**) and Robert Loren Fleming, with artists including Don Heck and Mike Parobek.

Writer **Randy Meredith** *is the in-house graphic artist at the Columbus (Ohio) Museum of Art. [Special thanks to Andrew Schooler for research assistance.]*

THE PHOENIX TAKES FLIGHT

Stephen King's *The Stand* may have been considered by many the epitome of the apocalyptic TV mini-series, but that was before "The Dark Phoenix Saga" hit the screen.

Jean Grey's tragic metamorphosis from woman to goddess to universal scourge — one of *the* classic Marvel storylines — is about to assume the stature of an animated classic. A five-part Phoenix story and a Dark Phoenix four-parter form the twin pillars of this season's *X-Men* episode lineup on Fox.

The first round of Phoenix shows is even airing as a "strip" — broadcast *daily* — so when "Phoenix" blazes into viewers' living rooms over five consecutive weekday afternoons this September, it will mark the first show in the new *X-Men* animation series to move out of its weekend slot to run during the week. *X-Men* will then return to Saturday, with "Dark Phoenix" slated to run over four weeks during the November ratings sweeps.

"Phoenix" and "Dark Phoenix" have been conceived, not just as stories in the spirit of the originals, but as genuinely faithful adaptations. "Jean Grey went out and mutilated several solar systems, and we can't really do that, but within certain limitations we're trying to be true to the books," *X-Men* Supervising Producer Scott Thomas said. "We know how popular the Phoenix storyline was, so we're trying to do it justice."

Many of the show's animated tableaus will look strikingly familiar. Producer Larry Houston, who oversees the visuals on *X-Men*, sent copies of the **DARK PHOENIX** trade paperback to his animators, instructing them to borrow liberally, and while artists studied John Byrne's distinctive style, writers boned up on Chris Claremont's storytelling technique.

"Of all the shows we've done, 'Dark Phoenix' is closest to the comics," said Joe Calamari, series executive producer and longtime Marvel executive. "The lines are quoted almost directly from the comic balloons. Time is the only consideration — there's just a lot more time involved in reading comic dialogue, believe it or not, than in reading script dialogue. There's only a third of the verbiage in the script, because you can't have people saying two or three lines at a time. Something has to be moving on the screen."

"Over the first two seasons, there were only two or three episodes that were based on a specific book," Story Editor Eric Lewald said. "There was a very loose adaptation of 'Days of Future Past' (**UNCANNY X-MEN #141**), and besides that, the books were basically used as research for bits of character and incidents, and the stories themselves were original.

"'Dark Phoenix' translated fairly closely," he said. "The Phoenix storyline itself took a little more finagling, because it was pieced together from a dozen books with five or six subplots. The X-Men would be in Ireland, and then there were leprechauns, and then there were Shi'ar. . . .Everything was from the books, but it took more cutting and pasting to make a coherent five-part television story. [X-Men Group Editor] Bob Harras was telling us, 'Don't think of the whole comic book as the 'Phoenix' story, think of it as eight pages from this one and eleven pages from that one, and pick and choose.' That was the way we had to do it to keep the story straightforward."

Still, "Phoenix" and "Dark Phoenix" will be rich with detail — strong, dramatic characterization and plot intricacies are what first attracted Fox to the comic, and the network has made these elements a mandate for the show. "This is the generation that's computer literate," noted Sidney Iwanter, who, as Fox's executive director of children's programming, provides direction for *X-Men*, *Batman*, and *Spider-Man*. "If our core audience has the patience and intelligence to go through twelve levels of a Sega or Nintendo game, then they're patient and intelligent enough to follow *X-Men*. We do not talk down to our viewers."

One secret to *X-Men*'s unusual maturity, Scott Thomas explained, is that the program draws heavily on the thriving arts community in Toronto, where all the dialogue is recorded. "The people doing the voices are mainly theater and television actors — they're not necessarily 'cartoon voices,'" he said. "We've gone

AN X-MEN SEASON III SNEAK PREVIEW AND EPISODE GUIDE

Model Designer **Frank Brunner** came to *The X-Men* with prestigious comic book credits that include MAN-THING, HOWARD THE DUCK, and the famous "Sise-Neg" storyline for DR. STRANGE.

out of our way to find actors, because this is played more like a drama, as opposed to traditional animation, where everybody's screaming at the top of their lungs. There's actually a lot of emotion and some nice scenes going on between the actors."

The entire *X-Men* production process involves delicately balanced — but potent — artistic collaboration. Unlike the new *Spider-Man* and *Marvel Action Hour* series, which are put together by Marvel Films Animation, *X-Men* is produced by Saban Entertainment. Saban has been charged by Marvel and Fox with the responsibility of realizing their vision for *X-Men*, from script to screen. It's a formidable enough task that Saban employs a studio called Graz Animation to handle the show's design, mapping out storyboards and coordinating the efforts of animation teams in Korea, China, and the Philippines. The visuals then come back to Saban for final editing, with Calamari and Iwanter contributing key input.

The system is complex, Calamari admitted, and Marvel has at times reinvested its *X-Men* royalties back into the show to work out kinks and ensure maximum quality. But with two 13-episode seasons already logged, *X-Men* is by now running like the proverbial well-oiled machine, so Lewald and his writers have had an opportunity to deal with fundamental story development, putting themselves in a position to tackle meaty concepts like 'Phoenix' and 'Dark Phoenix.'

"In the comic, there are a lot of detailed stories which would be difficult to do at any other time, unless you really know the characters," Thomas said. "I think it's the right time now. This is the third season, people know the world we're in, and we can take a certain amount of story license."

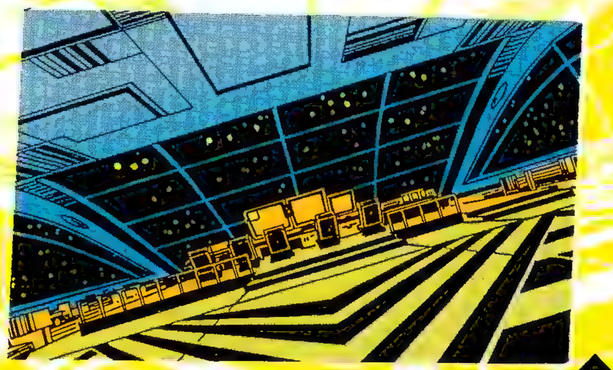
"In the meetings I've always stressed that they should get to the Phoenix stories, to stories at the heart of the X-Men mythos," said Harras, who serves as an editorial consultant on the series. "I constantly tell them to take a look at the books and see what's going on there that could inspire them, rather than coming up with storylines wholesale. That was the big edict, actually, from [Fox Children's Network President] Margaret Loesch when we went ahead with the show. . . it had to be very much like the Marvel comic books."

JOE CALAMARI, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Calamari has been involved with Marvel for more than 20 years; "in fact it's the only job I've ever had since graduating law school." He was formerly one of the owners of Marvel, and held various positions throughout the years, including that of executive vice-president. In 1980 he and Marvel President James Galton launched Marvel Productions, which went on to become one of the industry's largest animation studios. Since January 1994 he has served as a consultant and as executive producer of several of Marvel's film and TV projects.

With an X-Men legend spanning three decades and no fewer than eight current comic book titles, the new episode lineup had to be whittled down from a list of some 50 choice storylines. "We pick two or three shows in each group of thirteen to really develop characters," Calamari said, "and then a few small series, two- and three-parters, to give the show a flow."

The '94-95 season opens with a two-part encounter between Wolverine and Lady Deathstrike, with the conclusion written by Len Wein, writer of the immortal GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1. Other non-Phoenix stories will likely include episodes spotlighting Iceman and Archangel, a showdown between Colossus and Juggernaut, a two-part return to the Savage Land, and a character piece in which Cyclops learns that The Starjammers' Corsair is his father. Nightcrawler, Bishop, and Magneto's Asteroid M sanctuary will turn up either this season or next, pending final scheduling. "We're trying to play catch-up with the continuity in the books, so what we're doing is bringing in the best stories," Houston said. Houston and company have a finite number of chapters in which to interpret X-Men history (65 episodes, officially, with more possible should Fox agree to Calamari's recently proposed extension), and some plot divergences are unavoidable.



SHIAR SHUTTLE (INTERIOR)

"Throughout the course of the book, there have been all sorts of different takes on characters," Lewald said. A case in point: "You've got Magneto as this evil, sadistic, nasty, murderous, destructive guy, and then a few years later he's helping to run The X-Men. There may be half a dozen different ways that Marvel has treated Magneto over the years. We knew we would be seeing him several times on the show, so we picked the mixture we felt would provide the most rewarding character development. We made him a ruthless guy, but we also showed that he and Xavier have deep respect for each other. And once we've decided what a character's history is, we stick with that."

OPPOSITE PAGE: The animated series uses detailed art reference such as the background piece showing the interior of the Shi'ar shuttle **[bottom left]** and character illustrations of each member of the cartoon cast **[center left and throughout article]**. Storyboards, such as this sample by Doug Murphy from "The Dark Phoenix Saga," **[center right]** detail each episode's action in a panel-to-panel form very similar to comic books and comic strips.

THIS PAGE: Producer Larry Houston prepared storyboards—including this panel—for the "Out of the Past" episode, with inks by Mark Lewis.

Similarly, Lewald said, "We had to make a choice about having our X-Men be in their mid-20s and 30s, as opposed to teenagers. We don't refer to the mansion as Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters much at all, because [although] that's what it was in 1963, that isn't really what it is now." Xavier's digs will be a focal point for revisionist storytelling this season, as the animators incorporate designs from the **X-MEN SURVIVAL GUIDE TO THE MANSION.** Since this face lift can't be traced to any single development in the comics, the writers are introducing a plot device that will at once explain the change and play into the Phoenix storyline.

During the Lady Deathstrike two-parter, Houston said, "The X-Men discover that centuries ago, a Shi'ar spaceship crashed, and it's buried 'way beneath New York City. In subsequent episodes we'll make reference to that, as Beast creates different devices that have been augmented by this Shi'ar technology." By the time Shi'ar spacecraft warp onto the scene in 'Phoenix' and 'Dark Phoenix,' they'll be thoroughly identifiable flying objects, for The X-Men and viewers alike.

The X-Men are unusual in that they rose to their current prominence, not in the '60s, but in the late '70s and early '80s — a less innocent time, and one in which comic book publishers were more willing to explore controversial themes. Psychologically edgy characters like Wolverine and Phoenix tested new ground in comics, and they're doing the same in animated television today. Here again, plot adjustments are sometimes a necessity. "We generally take a first pass at our stories, [staying] pretty close to the comics," Calamari said, "but we run into broadcast standards and practice issues quite often, and that's where we really have to sit down and start looking at changes.

"Looking at the whole picture, those changes have been relatively small," he continued. "We can't have a character kill, or say, 'I'm gonna kill you!' When there are close-ups, we can't have Wolverine popping his claws up under somebody's chin. But we can say, 'Destroy them,' and we can cut up things that are robotic."

"Wolverine is probably the embodiment of every TV broadcast standards person's nightmare," Lewald added with a laugh. "It's the kind of thing every nine-year-old loves to hear — 'Oh, boy, Wolverine is acting out and really ripping into people!' — but on TV we have to have a Wolverine who's more careful than that. It's difficult sometimes, because so much of the drama is in his attitude. One way we can do this sort of thing is to show a character struggling with what he's doing. That makes it easier for broadcast standards to swallow, so we've got even more angst than there is in the books sometimes.

SIDNEY IWANTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FOX PROGRAMMING

"I purposely volunteer for all of the testosterone drippers — shows like *Beetlejuice*, *Batman*, *X-Men*, *Spider-Man*," Iwanter noted with his trademark sarcasm. Having been in children's programming since 1979, at Hanna Barbera, **TMS** Entertainment, Southern Star Productions, Marvel Productions, and now **Fox,** Iwanter — with his 40-year love affair with comic books — is ideally suited to, as he puts it, "act as the liaison between the production company and the **Fox** network — I have to participate in the entire creative decision-making process, as well as closely working with broadcast standards to allay their fears."

"Phoenix is a perfect example," he said. "Jean goes crazy, becomes this immensely powerful creature, and slaughters six billion people. Then she realizes what she's done, and out of utter guilt and anguish, commits suicide. I have a whole lot of sympathy for broadcast standards on this — they don't particularly want Jean, however upset and irradiated she is

The '94-95 season opens with a two-part encounter between Wolverine and Lady Deathstrike.

— to be eating planets and melting people. They're more comfortable with a storyline where it's an entity inside Jean doing this, and she's fighting against it."

Lewald credits Fox's broadcast standards department with being supportive of some fairly radical ideas, and the changes being made to the "Phoenix" saga actually dove-

LARRY HOUSTON, PRODUCER

A 14-year veteran of the animation business, Houston spent much of the 1980s with Marvel Productions, and has been a producer on *X-Men* since the show's inception. His credits include *Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends, Dungeons and Dragons,* and *GI Joe,* and he's also tried his hand at comics as a penciler and inker on *DNAgents.* In 1990, his work as producer and director on **DIC** Enterprises' *Captain Planet* series earned him an Emmy nomination. "I've been reading the X-Men books ever since they started," Houston said, adding with a laugh. "I wish I had my **[UNCANNY] X-MEN #1** — I'd have a lot of money right now."

"X-MEN: THE LOST EPISODE"

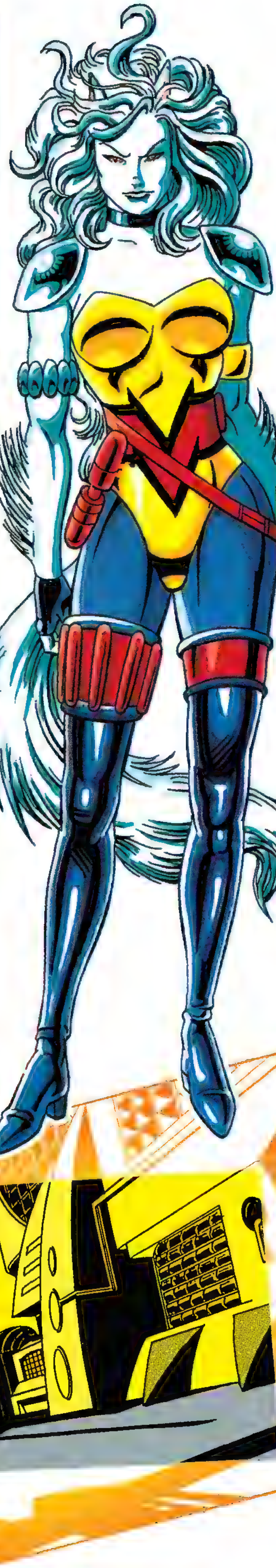
All the greats in television history have "lost episodes": *The Honeymooners. . .I Love Lucy. . .X-Men. . .*

Before soaring in the Saturday morning ratings on Fox, Marvel's mutants made a brief screen appearance on a late '80s anthology show called *Marvel Action Universe,* produced by Marvel Productions, a predecessor of the company's current animation unit. Because industry emphasis at the time was on tie-in programming, Marvel Productions focused on series like *GI Joe* and *Dungeons and Dragons.* Even *M.A.U.* was built around *RoboCop.*

Then, a flash of inspiration: one *M.A.U.* episode would include an animated X-pilot, "Pryde of the X-Men," adapted from the Claremont-Byrne issues in which Kitty Pryde is first recruited to the group. "As good as it turned out, it wasn't quite the story we wanted to tell," then-Producer Larry Houston said. "It also wasn't the exact team we wanted, but we did what we could to make it as exciting as possible.

"Unfortunately, it was never really advertised as 'Here's the X-Men pilot,'" he added. "It was more like if you were watching *RoboCop,* you heard, 'Oh, by the way, here's The X-Men.' There really wasn't any publicity, so there was no reaction to it."

With enough diligence, though, fans should be able to find the animated Kitty Pryde on video at the local comic shop, Blockbuster, or Toys 'R' Us.



tail nicely with an ongoing effort to "retrofit history," as the *X-Men* creative team frequently puts it. In this case, readers of the book saw Jean Grey die in the X-Men's last stand against the Shi'ar, only to be told years later that it was instead a cosmic spirit who had expired on the moon. To satisfy those same readers, the show must accommodate both scenarios.

"Sometimes there are things in the book that we don't think will seem plausible anymore to TV audiences," Lewald said. "Just saying, 'boom, there's some radiation,' and then Jean is running around as the Phoenix — that seemed a little old-fashioned. It made more sense to have this entity involved."

"We haven't stayed locked into history," Calamari summed up. "But the things we are developing out of the past are generally stories that most people in comicdom think were the best and greatest. We've just designed those shows to be contemporary, to be around where Bob Harras is in the comics right now.

"It's like knowing the future of where you're going," he said. "And the history of where you've been."

ERIC LEWALD, STORY EDITOR

Another principal of the *X-Men* crew since day one, Lewald developed the series for television, as he did previously with *ExoSquad.* His other credits include a stint as story editor on the *Beetlejuice* cartoon, and three years as a staff writer with Disney's TV animation division, during which he worked on *Chip 'n' Dale's Rescue Rangers, Darkwing Duck,* and *TaleSpin,* among others.

__Tom Russo__ is a freelance writer who lives near the real Salem Center, N.Y. He has yet to see an actual mutant, with the possible exception of some less-than-savory neighbors.

MOJO WORLD

"X-MEN: THE MOVIE"

Lauren Shuler-Donner is slated to co-produce *The X-Men.*

In the Marvel Universe, The X-Men mutants are an enigma, feared because the world at large knows so little about them. In Hollywood, The X-Men are proving equally enigmatic. "Secrecy" is the watchword, and as with the *Jurassic Park* trailer that featured a prehistoric mosquito (but no dinosaurs), the idea is to build excitement through mystery.

Producer Richard Donner is a veteran of the super-hero film, having directed the first *Superman* movie as well as the *Lethal Weapon* series. He's overseeing *X-Men* with wife and partner Lauren Shuler-Donner, herself producer of *Free Willy.* Recuperating from *Maverick* and gearing up for *Free Willy 2,* the Donners don't yet have a lot to say about *X-Men.* Yes, they're looking at the original characters. Yes, Wolverine is being eyed as a featured player Cast and budget discussions? Not yet. When would they like to go into production? As soon as possible.

First they'll need a finished script from up-and-coming writer Andrew Kevin Walker, who comes to the assignment from a horror background — albeit one with an obvious comics sensibility. He penned an episode of *Tales From the Crypt* called "Well-Cooked Hams" (starring Martin Sheen), and he's currently at work on a re-telling of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" that casts the Headless Horseman as an all-too-real serial killer. "It takes the Washington Irving story and twists it in a very strange fashion," Walker said. Actually, he added with a laugh, "everything I've worked on is strange."

Producer Richard Donner's credits include a wide variety of films from *Superman* to *Lethal Weapon.*

His highest-profile effort to date is a story about a (literally) killer video game — written several years ago while he was toiling away as a production assistant on low-budget films in New York. The script kicked around for a time, got a technology upgrade for the CD-ROM age, and emerged this past spring as the Eddie Furlong movie *Brainscan.*

A Marvel fan since childhood, Walker said he was thrilled to get the nod for *X-Men* — not only because it was a coup for him, but also because there's a real love for these characters among the people putting the project together. "It's amazing to me, the continuity that the guys who write these books have to keep up with," said Walker, who's kept **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE** and trade collections like WEAPON X close at hand. "One of the biggest challenges, without saying who the characters are, was looking at the whole 30 years of X-Men stuff and figuring out which characters to use.

"With special effects today, I can write huge stuff and know that it could be done — it's just a matter of whether the budget will allow it," he said. "And there are certain scenes where you almost feel like you should be writing this with the budget person over one shoulder and the stunt coordinator over the other, because certain stuff's going to have to change. But if it's too big, they'll let me know."

X-MEN EPISODE GUIDE

SEASON ONE

Night of the Sentinels, Part I

Writer: Mark Edens

The X-Men save Jubilee when Sentinels attack; government renegades use the Mutant Registration Program to try to eliminate all mutants.

Night of the Sentinels, Part II

Writer: Mark Edens

The X-Men dispose of the ill-intended mutant files, but Morph is apparently killed and Beast is caught. The X-Men destroy the Sentinel factory.

Enter Magneto

Writers: James Carlson, Terrence McDonnell

Magneto tries to free The Beast from prison. Beast declines, and receives the maximum sentence (after The X-Men thwart a court-room attack by Sabretooth).

Deadly Reunions

Writer: Don Glut

At the X-Mansion, Sabretooth mauls Wolverine and escapes. The rest of The X-Men resume their clash with Magneto.

Captive Hearts

Writers: Robert Skir, Martin Isenberg

Cyclops and Jean Grey are captured by the Morlocks; Wolverine confronts his strong feelings for Jean and jealousy toward Cyclops.

Cold Vengeance

Writer: Michael Edens

Wolverine seeks peace among a group of Eskimos, but Sabretooth has tracked him. Xavier sends Storm, Gambit, and Jubilee to Genosha.

Slave Island

Writer: Mark Edens

Genosha is revealed as a mutant slave camp. Jubilee, Gambit and Storm lead a revolt, and when Cable arrives, the Genoshan leadership is put out of business.

The Unstoppable Juggernaut

Writer: Julianne Klemm

The X-Mansion is laid to waste and The X-Men suspect the muscular Russian mutant Colossus, though the true culprit is Juggernaut.

The Cure

Writer: Mark Edens

Rogue flies to Scotland to investigate a "cure" for the mutant gene — actually a plot by Apocalypse. Cable confronts millionaire playboy Warren Worthington III (Angel).

Come the Apocalypse

Writer: Michael Edens

Apocalypse unleashes his Four Horsemen — mutants transformed by Mystique into killing machines. The brainwashed Angel leads the evil charge.

Days of Future Past, Part I

Writer: Julia Jane Lewald

Using Forge's time portal, Bishop travels to the present day from the year 2055 to foil a political assassination.

Days of Future Past, Part II

Writers: Robert Skir, Martin Isenberg

Convinced Gambit is the assassin, Bishop and The X-Men trail the Cajun to Washington, D.C.

The Final Decision

Writer: Mark Edens

Magneto tries to assassinate Senator Kelly, but when Sentinel creator Trask abducts Kelly, Magneto finds himself teamed with The X-Men.

SEASON TWO

Till Death Do Us Part, Part I

Writer: Mark Edens

Scott Summers and Jean Grey are "married" — unaware the "minister" is in fact Morph — now in league with Mr. Sinister.

Till Death Do Us Part, Part II

Writer: Mark Edens

Mr. Sinister's scheme is about to succeed when Morph deals his master a costly blow. Xavier and Magneto stumble into a trap Sinister has laid.

Whatever It Takes

Writer: Julia Jane Lewald

The Shadow King lures Storm home to Africa, possessing her young spiritual son, Mjnari. Wolverine appeals to Morph to rejoin the team, and Xavier and Magneto journey into The Savage Land.

Red Dawn

Writers: Ted Pedersen, Francis Moss

Omega Red is resuscitated by members of the dismantled Soviet hierarchy. Colossus, with the help of the X-Men, fights to save his country.

Repo Man

Writer: Len Wein

Alpha Flight ventures south of the Canadian border to reclaim "Weapon X" — also known as Wolverine.

X-ternally Yours

Writer: Julianne Klemm

A mystic tithe and an age-old family feud force Gambit to return to the bayou, where the woman he once left at the altar seeks revenge.

Time Fugitives, Part I

Writer: Michael Edens

Bishop returns, determined to contain a mutant virus created by Apocalypse. But the disease must spread if Cable's future is to survive.

Time Fugitives, Part II

Writer: Elliott Maggin

Torn at the thought of helping Apocalypse, Cable bodyslides into the present to undo efforts to halt the mutant plague.

I Remember Mama

Writers: Robert Skir, Martin Isenberg

Mystique, Rogue's foster mother, is convinced by Sinister to steer Rogue into a brutal psychic showdown with Ms. Marvel.

Beauty and the Beast

Writer: Stephanie Mathison

Beast falls in love with a blind woman whose eyesight he is attempting to restore.

Mojovision

Writer: Brooks Wachtel

Mojo "casts" The X-Men in his latest bizarre TV fodder, and Longshot helps the mutants stave off death. Xavier and Magneto near Magneto's Savage Land citadel.

Reunion, Part I

Writer: Len Wein

Xavier and Magneto are bait as Mr. Sinister lures The X-Men to his Savage Land stronghold.

Reunion, Part II

Writer: Michael Edens

The X-Men lose all their mutant abilities and are overrun by Sinister's Nasty Boys. Wolverine and Ka-Zar must disrupt Sinister's plans.

SEASON THREE

[At press time, episodes were still in production, and the schedule was being finalized. Information offered here is subject to change.]

Out of the Past — Part 1

Logan's former love Yuriko has become a living weapon — the cyborg Lady Deathstrike. She believes Wolverine caused her father's death, and journeys to America to seek revenge on Wolverine. Luring The X-Men into the Morlock tunnels, she makes a stunning alien discovery.

Out of the Past — Part 2

Yuriko and her allies, The Reavers, find a Shi'ar vessel in the Morlock tunnels, actually a prison for a voracious, gaseous M'Kraan Spirit Drinker. When the creature attacks and absorbs Jubilee's spirit, The X-Men and The Reavers are thrown together.

The Phoenix Saga, Part 1 — Sacrifice

Shi'ar emissary Eric the Red commandeers the Eagle One space station for use as Emperor D'Ken launches a surprise attack on Shi'ar Princess Lilandra, who possesses the powerful M'Kraan crystal that D'Ken covets.

The Phoenix Saga, Part 2 — Dark Shroud

Jean Grey pilots a crippled shuttle from Eagle One, but her psycho-kinetic shield, protecting the ship from deadly radiation, fails. Her cry for help is answered by the mysterious Phoenix force, guardian of the crystal. Meanwhile, Professor X has undergone an alarming transformation, and retreats to Ireland to rest, until surprising visitors appear.

The Phoenix Saga, Part 3 — Cry of the Banshee

Even as Jean struggles against the Phoenix force, Prof. X is sought out by Lilandra, who asks for aid against her brother, Emperor D'Ken. But has Xavier lost his mind?

The Phoenix Saga, Part 4 — Starjammers

Jean loses her identity to The Phoenix, who transports The X-Men to Lilandra's ship, where the crystal is hidden. There they face a confrontation with D'Ken. . .as well as Starjammers Corsair, Raza, Hepzibah, and Ch'od.

The Phoenix Saga, Part 5 — Child of Light

Emperor D'Ken is in control of the M'Kraan crystal, allowing him to re-create the universe. He begins to suck the life from the solar system, and only Phoenix can hope to stop him — but at great sacrifice.

No Mutant is an Island

Grieving over the loss of Jean, Cyclops leaves The X-Men and returns to the orphanage where he grew up, only to discover an evil conspiracy to use other young mutants for criminal purposes.

Obsession

Archangel, obsessed with destroying Apocalypse, is joined by Rogue in his Ahab-like quest. When The X-Men have Apocalypse in their grasp, Archangel's vengefulness may be their undoing.

Longshot

Amnesiac and hotly pursued by Mojo and his murderous gang, Longshot tumbles into our world. Jubilee helps him to the X-Mansion.

Cold Comfort

Bobby Drake, the former X-Man called Iceman, is caught breaking into a government installation. But Iceman, once Xavier's star pupil, had a reason, one he will only reveal to the one X-Man he still trusts — The Beast.

Savage Land, Savage Heart — Part 1

High Priestess Zaladane sends Sauron, half-man/half-Pterodactyl, to kidnap Storm. When The X-Men arrive, they must fight off dinosaurs, Sauron, Garokk, and the boundless mutant energy of Storm!

Savage Land, Savage Heart — Part 2

The X-Men and the native Fall People must stop Garokk, The Stone Spirit, and the enthralled Storm before Garokk can fuse with the island's volcano.

The Dark Phoenix Saga, Part 1 — Dazzled

As a chanteuse named Dazzler flirts with Cyclops, Jean returns, controlled by Phoenix. With the help of Emma Frost and the Inner Circle, Jean/Phoenix is psychically seduced by Jason Wyngarde, who weaves a fictional history for her, creating a passionate romance between them. When The X-Men come to rescue her, she sides with Wyngarde.

The Dark Phoenix Saga, Part 2 — Inner Circle

Professor X and Emma Frost battle for psychic control of Jean, and the Inner Circle members quarrel over how to dispose of the imprisoned X-Men.

The Dark Phoenix Saga, Part 3 — Dark Phoenix

When The X-Men demand that Phoenix free Jean, she vows to destroy the team. When Phoenix re-energizes, the entire D'Bari star system is destroyed, and Shi'ar Empress Lilandra vows that Phoenix must die.

The Dark Phoenix Saga, Part 4 — The Fate of Phoenix

The X-Men vs. The Imperial Guard over custody of Jean and Phoenix, and Xavier finds himself opposing Lilandra. Startlingly, when Phoenix falls, Professor X commands The X-Men to stop their dearest friend. . .if they can.

Orphan's End

Cyclops discovers that Corsair, on the run from the Shi'ar authorities, is his father. Will Scott turn in the man who may have abandoned him as a child?

According to Executive Director Sidney Iwanter of **FOX,** the *fourth season* — launching in September '95 — promises to include episodes involving Juggernaut, Colossus, Mr. Sinister, Sabretooth, Nightcrawler, Bishop, Cable, and a "brawl that involves Apocalypse against nearly everyone."

WELCOME TO TOY BIZ, ROGUE!

Hope You Survive The Experience.

In nature, spring heralds new life. Perennials re-emerge heartier than before and saplings begin their growth into mighty trees. In the expanding world of The X-Men, the season of renewal begins this fall. Along with the birth of a new title—GENERATION X—this autumn both the animated series and the Toy Biz action figure line will continue to flourish.

Toy Biz Creative Director of Marvel Products Ron McArdle discussed upcoming developments in the *X-Men* action figure line, explaining that future assortments of figures will be *greatly* influenced by the new episodes of FOX TV's X-Men animated series. The third season's major story arcs are "The Phoenix Saga" and "The Dark Phoenix Saga," based on classic issues of UNCANNY X-MEN by Chris Claremont, John Byrne and Terry Austin.

"We want to follow the show very closely. Because the show is going to feature the Phoenix sagas, The X-Men will be going into space, and we think there is *great* potential for figures and vehicles. We're already doing the *Blackbird Jet Playset* as one of them and we want to do some other vehicles that are going to be used in those episodes. We want to produce *The Starjammers* as figures, and there are some great figures in the Shi'ar Imperial guard that we want to do as well," McArdle revealed. "We are already doing *Ch'od* and *Raza* in the new assortment and are planning a *Corsair* figure, as well. There are going to be *tons* of cameos of Imperial Guard members this season and we are already talking about doing Gladiator and Warstar. We want to take the ones that are most featured and we think would make the best toys. Warstar is a perfect example because you have the two figures fitting in the one—he's a great character who makes for an interesting toy.

"'The Dark Phoenix Saga' is a great story arc," McArdle said. "I've seen the storyboards on it—its going to be very well done and is a *pivotal* story line. Phoenix is very popular with the male readers of the comic book and we think it will be true for viewers of the show who haven't read the comic before, so they should be very interested in the figure. It'd be tough to do *The Phoenix Saga* toy line and not do a *Phoenix* figure. That's what makes The X-Men such a great property, there are all these terrific three-dimensional female characters that not only girls are interested in seeing as figures, but boys are as well—which is a very rare thing in the toy business. They are written and illustrated as real people, not damsels in distress—they are equals. If anything, the strongest, most powerful member of the team is Rogue.

"Fans will be happy to know we'll be producing *Rogue*," McArdle continued, "and what happens with making a *Phoenix* figure is going to depend a lot on how well she does." *Rogue* will be only the second figure in Toy Biz's mutant line-up from the so-called fairer sex. The first was *Storm* from the initial assortments of figures several years ago.

"You hear all these things in the industry that 'female figures don't sell' and, for the most part, that is true; they don't sell to little boys unless the female is integral," McArdle explained. The original Storm, released before the animated series began airing (and supporting the toy line in the mass market), initially did not do as well as the male figures. Then we got a new administration, a new attitude towards sculpting," McArdle said, "and said 'lets do a figure that looks really great because this old one is just not on par with what we're doing now.'"

The original *Rogue* sculpture is 10" tall.

Ron McArdle produces design sketches for the sculptor to utilize.

Meanwhile the FOX TV *X-Men* series went on to become one of the hottest animated properties around; "We weren't shipping any *Storms* and people were buying up the old ones. In fact, it became pretty valuable on the collectors' market. The same people who said 'no more female figures' started requesting more *Storms*, and we figured maybe there was something here. We asked ourselves if we should do a new *Storm* and we said 'no, Rogue is just as popular, if not more so in some circles, lets sculpt a great *Rogue* and try with her.' And we did. We came up with a great new figure that's going to really test the water for us. I think its going to sell better than a normal figure because she's such a great character and if she does really well—*hint, hint*—you'll see more female figures." Meanwhile, for Storm fans, Toy Biz is shipping a repainted figure in September.

Top: Sculptor Steve Kiwus creates many of Toy Biz's prototypes including (pictured here) *Random, Rogue, Wolverine,* and *The Beast.* **Center:** Kiwus adds to the intricate detail on *Rogue's* face.

Creative Director Ron McArdle and Marketing V-P Joanne McLaughlin

One special consideration Toy Biz designers face when creating a female figure is a generally smaller body mass than for male counterparts, presenting difficulties in designing a mechanism to fit in the more restrictive body—a problem overcome with *Rogue* by sculpting a coat onto her body, as opposed to using one made of cloth, thus allowing more room to house her "Power Uppercut Punch" mechanism. "The trouble with designing mechanisms is, when you come up against a character like Phoenix, well, what's her power? She has this big energy phoenix that follows her, how do you do that in a toy? It's still in the works right now, but our plans are for something in keeping with her powers, rather than something that is out of line with the integrity of the character...like giving her a gun that shoots 'phoenix bullets.' We don't do dopey stuff like that—we'd rather put the feature into making her this omnipresent character."

Ch'od and *Raza*, featured at Toy Fair '94, are the first two figures from *The Phoenix Saga* scheduled for release. McArdle explained that, with a character as large as *Ch'od*, there were certainly no worries about housing a mechanism, although other considerations came into play. "When making a figure like *Ch'od* you really have to sit down and think about what he does. He's big, he's cumbersome and he's lumbersome, which means it's going to be a lot of money and plastic to produce him as opposed to a regular figure. But we wanted to make sure we did him as a giant figure. At the time we were starting to get some response back on *Strong Guy*. People were actually *flipping* over these extra large figures. We had great sculpture art and nice control art, and came up with a mechanism concept that, rather than giving him a weapon, would focus on his great strength, a double arm hurling action so you can take another figure and hurl that character.

"Now with *Raza*, he's known as a sword fighter and a swashbuckler. We came up with a rather interesting mechanism that allows him to actually duel in a sword fight where you activate his forward sword arm by moving his other arm back and forth. We try and come up with the best feature that makes sense to the character; it's always great to come up with original exciting stuff."

"The trouble with designing mechanisms is, when you come up against a character like Phoenix, well, what's her power?"

The Toy Biz team strives for each figure to have appropriate size and mass—they don't all have the same shoulder width and basic body proportions. "Like *Strong Guy*," McArdle elaborated, "we sculpted it around that *Strong Guy* size from the comics. We're getting away from doing things where *Colossus* is just the same as *Cyclops*. Hopefully if we do another *Colossus*, it would be the proper stance and size for his mass.

"With *X-Men* we have been very lucky—we use a sculptor named Steve Kiwus, probably one of the best in the business. Steve has been instrumental in the change you've seen in the *X-Men* figures. What's great about him is he understands *aesthetics* as well as manufacturing. By that, I mean a sculpture may look absolutely incredible, but it doesn't do you any good if you can't mold it or if you can't pull it from the mold. Steve understands how to apply dynamic anatomy. One of the things that he does is he goes back to the sculpture input art that Bart Sears does to get the dynamic attitude. *Attitude* is really the key word.

Steve Kiwus produced the prototype sculptures for *Wolverine, Rogue, The Beast, Phoenix, Random,* and many of other new *X-Men* additions.

Attention to sculpture detail, dynamic anatomy, and character integrity arise frequently when McArdle speaks of the Toy Biz team. "Kids today are really smart," McArdle explained, "and you can't take them for granted. Also, don't forget that kids aren't the *only* ones buying toys anymore. There was a study done about a year ago that showed that there are a lot of us 'Generation X' types—who refuse to grow up—with disposable income. We embrace our past, we still hang on to the child in us, and we still buy toys. And because you have older consumers who will be more critical of the toys looking at them, you want their reaction to be 'Oh wow that is a really cool toy!'

"Like the *Aliens* toy line from Kenner, while the human characters were not that interesting, the aliens themselves were fascinating," he continued. "They were beautifully sculpted, they were very well done. The same thing goes for the new resurgence of *X-Men* figures like *Bishop* and the new *Cyclops*. We're paying a lot more attention to sculptural detail as opposed to doing just another slug action figure. It's not just another action figure line to us and I think it shows in the details. The comics also are done that way—they're not done to the lowest common denominator, so why should the toys be? We're doing it because we want to make the best figures we can. Its not just business to us, we're fans as well."

McArdle, attracted to comics at an early age, always knew he wanted to work with comics in some form. Drawing comics and characters every day helped prepare him for his unique career that bridges the worlds of comics and toy design. An integral member of the Toy Biz team, McArdle, who cites Jack Kirby, John Byrne, and Neal Adams as influences, is quick to call attention to the contributions of the other people involved in the process.

"It's a team effort, the group of us here makes the initial offering or recommendations. By 'us' I mean **Ann Pitrone** and **Joanne McLaughlin**, who are the VP and director of R&D, as well as **Bob Leff**, who is our Executive VP of Sales, and most importantly **Avi Arad**, who is our chief toy...genius—its the only word to describe him really. He's a legend among toy inventors. He's invented many, many toys and he knows what he wants, he has a great sense of that. He's the one putting the shows together," McArdle explained.

Samples of the new X-figures were shown at Toy Fair '94.

Photo credits
Steve Kiwus-Photo by Liza Leigh
Toy Biz-Photo by Anna Harper

Kiwus adds detail to the figures—such as this one for *Random*—at his Minnesota studio, then sends them to Toy Biz's main offices.

Autumn X-Toy Releases

New 5" figures—**September:**
- *Bonebreaker*—Mutant Attack Tank
- *Cable IV*—Air Assault Action
- *Ch'od*—Double Arm Hurling Action
- *Civilian Wolverine*—Retractable Claws
- *Kylun*—Twin Striking Swords
- *Pyro*—Flame Throwing Action
- *Quark*—Quick Draw Action
- *Raza*—Swashbuckling Sword Action
- *Rictor*—Seismic Shock wave Action
- *Rogue*—Power Upper Cut Punch
- *Shatterstar II*—Dual Sword Slashing Action
- *Sunspot*—Explosive Power Punch

Repainted 5" figures—**September:**
- *Iceman*—Ice Sled
- *Magneto*—Super Spark Action
- *Mr. Sinister*—Power Light Blast
- *Nightcrawler*—Super Suction
- *Sauron*—Savage Attack Wings
- *Storm*—Flashing Lightning Bolt

New 5" figures—**October:**
- *Cable V*—Deep Sea Combat and Spear Gun
- *Comcast*—Mutant Hunting Hovercraft
- *Killspree*—Slashing Blade Arms
- *Slayback*—Extending Bio-Mechanical Arms
- *Warpath II*—Smashing Power Punch
- *X-treme*—Axe Attack

The following figures were announced for release with those above, to be made available to specific retail outlets, though the details were not available at press time. Toy Biz's Ron McArdle assured fans that they also will be grouped together in a new assortment later this year.
- *Black Tom*—Power Bio-Blast
- *Maverick*—Quick Draw Action
- *Mojo*—Wild Whipping Tail
- *Senyaka*—Whip Snapping Action
- *Weapon X Wolverine* (repainted)—High Tech Training Helmet

Toy Biz works very closely with Marvel to keep abreast of developments that may affect the selection process when choosing new figures. When the decision to make a figure is reached, Marvel's Director of Creative Development, Dana Moreshead, becomes involved, providing visual reference used by the sculpture input and control artists, and helping select the definitive version of the character.

"There are some characters in the *X-Force* assortments, that were part of the DEADPOOL miniseries, like *Comcast*, who have only appeared one time and were only drawn by one artist, Joe Maderiera, so by default that is the ultimate version. But when you have a character that has been around 30 years and drawn by 30 different illustrators it can get a little tougher, it can get confusing for the sculptor, so we have to pinpoint what we want, what head shot is perfect, etc. To me, Jim Lee does perfect anatomy and is very dynamic, so we tend to use his versions a lot," McArdle revealed.

"Once they are approved we go ahead designing mechanisms, sculpture input art, control art, then the sculptors themselves get hold of it and (after the sculpture has been approved) it goes to Asia, while the packaging is worked on here.

"It's very important for us to have someone in Asia while these things are being done, reviewing them," he continued. "You have to remember it's a different culture and they don't understand the nuances of our characters. When you get stuff back from them and its not right you have to be *very* specific and very descriptive to communicate the subtle things that you want done.

"We're a part of this huge audience of fans of the X-Men universe," he concluded, "so it's worth the effort to make sure everything turns out right for the folks who only see the end result."

*In addition to being a vociferous, if not—as some say—*radical *proponent of hyphenation, writer* **Brian David-Marshall** *has been writing for and working in the comic book industry since 1985.*

X-MEN HITTING THE BOOKS

Across the United States, bookstore managers and buyers are chanting a new mantra, and the words "The mutants are coming. . .the mutants are coming. . .the mutants are coming" can be heard in the air. The reason — Random House and a number of other publishers have agreements in the works with Marvel to develop a wide variety of X-Men book projects for all ages — and America's favorite mutants are already arriving in bookstores everywhere.

Super-hero-related books have achieved tremendous popularity in the last few years. Bookstores, traditionally shy about carrying comic books, have successfully integrated graphic novels and trade paperback comic book anthologies onto their shelves. One hardcover novel published recently which featured a certain well-known super-hero even enjoyed a brief stint on the bestseller lists. Publishers are eager to take advantage of this kind of popularity and are now working with Marvel to introduce The X-Men to a different kind of audience.

When Marvel has licensed projects in the past, they have met with excellent response, with many of the books selling more than 100,000 copies. Recent successes have included the softcover edition of Harry N. Abrams' *Marvel: Five Fabulous Decades of the World's Greatest Comics* by Les Daniels and hardcover editions of *Look and Find X-Men* and *Look and Find Spider-Man* from Publications International. Bookstores will soon be able to "boutique" X-Men products, including the new book projects, action figures, greeting cards, bookmarks, calendars, videotapes, apparel, and more. This kind of "store within a store" merchandising will be used by chains and specialty stores such as Toys 'R Us to spotlight Marvel-inspired books and other wares.

As early as next year, Bantam Books will publish the first of several full-length X-Men novels. Boxtree, UK publishers of an illustrated edition describing each of the mutant characters in encyclopedic detail, plans to make their book available in the US in 1995. Western Publishing, which produced a number of X-Men coloring and activity books in 1992, will have X-Men electronic sound books on the scene in the near future, and Publications International is releasing a paperback edition of their popular *Look and Find X-Men* in 1995.

Perhaps the most extensive and ambitious program, already in progress, is from Random House Books for Young Readers. In 1993, Random published four of their signature "Picturebacks®" — paperback picture storybooks for ages 3-8. Priced at $2.50, these brightly colored, 32-page editions are based on teleplays from Fox Network's animated *X-Men Adventures* and resemble comics in that they include some sequential panels and word balloons. Titles from that first season included *Enter the X-Men, Night of the Sentinels, Morlock Madness* and *To Stop a Juggernaut!*, with art teams that included comic book veterans Marie Severin and Gray Morrow.

In the spring of this year, Random House officially launched the X-Men into the U.S. book market. Two more Picturebacks — *Experiment on Muir Island* and *Slaves of Genosha* — were released, and two of the titles from the first season were repackaged with 20 minute dramatized cassettes, priced competitively at $7.95. Random's "Step into Reading" format for ages 6-8 yielded two titles, *Battle of the Sentinels* and *Enter Magneto.* These full color, 48-page storybooks sell for $3.50 and are also adapted from *The X-Men Adventures.* Four "Bullseye" digest novels for ages 9-11 were published as well — the books are based on storylines from X-Men comics. These 108-page paperbacks are priced at $3.50, with 10-12 black-and-white chapter illustrations in each. The four titles released in the spring of 1994 included *Second Genesis, Days of Future Past, Wolverine: Top Secret* and *The Xavier Files. The X-Men Poster Book* for ages four and up includes eight 11-3/8" × 13" perforated pages for easy poster removal and sells for $7.99.

The 1994 fall season promises to be even more expansive. Random will release two more Picturebacks titles, *The Wedding of Cyclops* and *Beauty and the Beast.* A new format, "Tattoo Tales" will feature two 24-page Picturebacks, *X-Men Masquerade* and *X-Men Spellbound,* priced at $4.99 and each packaged with 12 non-toxic temporary tattoos. There also will be four more Bullseye novels, titled *Wolverine: Duty and Honor, X-Tinction Agenda, The Brood,* and *X-Men in the Savage Land.*

Novelty titles to be published during the fall 1994 season, aimed at ages four and up, will include an *X-Men Mask Book,* priced at $6.99 (with six punch-out color masks plus accessories), *Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters* — a $10.00 die-cut hardcover lift-the-flap book with five full color spreads, a hardcover *X-Men*

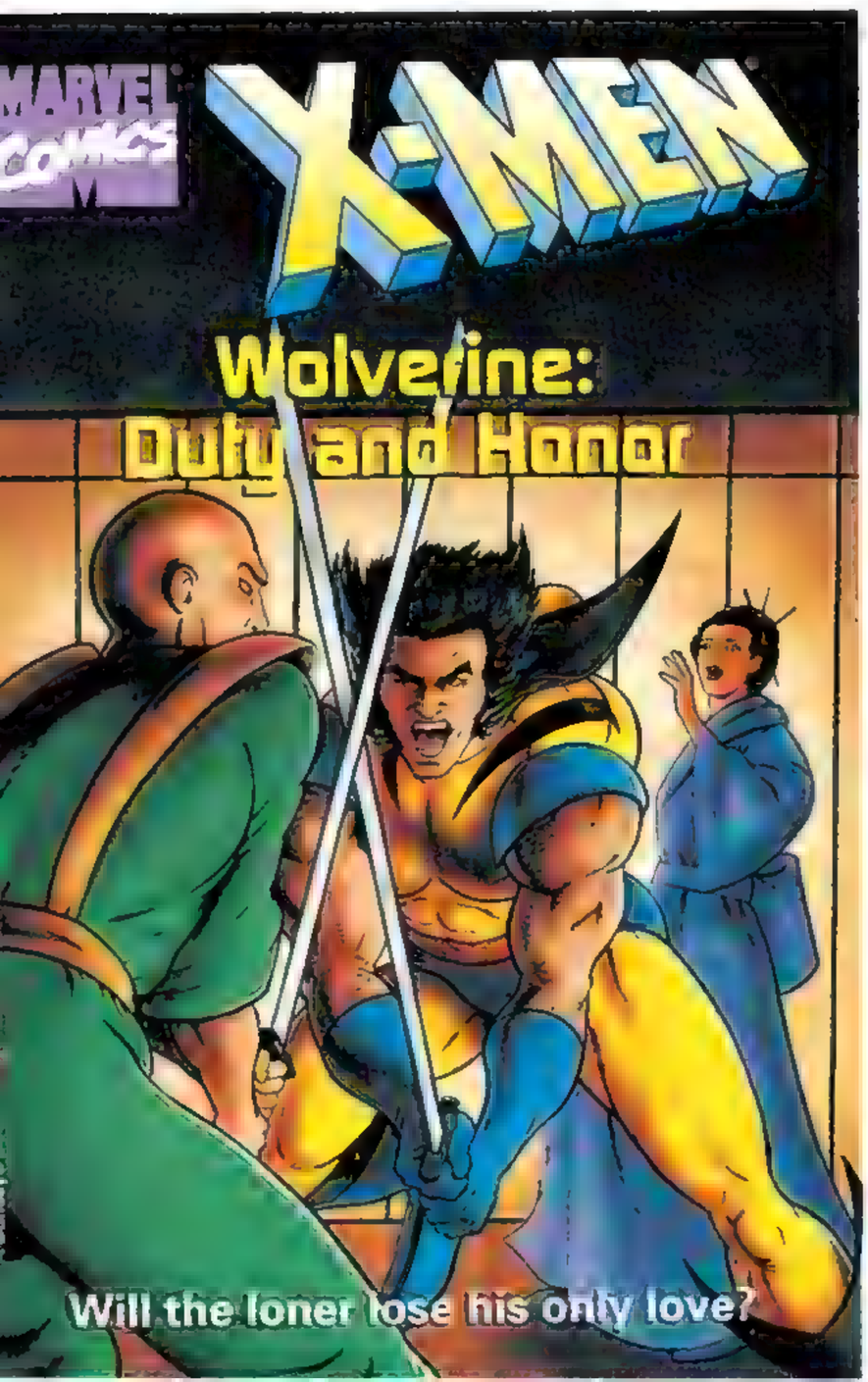
Photo by Dana Hayward

Pop-up Book from Intervisual priced at $12.00 (with five pop-up color spreads), and two 24-page hardcover X-Men Hologram Storybooks, *Gambit and the Shadow King* and *Havoc: The Secret of Cyclops' Brother,* each priced at $5.99. And there will be a 64-page *X-Men Giant Coloring and Activity Book* priced at $3.99 for ages 4-8. Random's "Happy House" is also producing four more 48-page X-Men coloring books priced at less than $1.00: *Wolverine Coloring and Activity Book, X-Men: Mazes and Puzzles, X-Men Gallery of Heroes and Villains to Color,* and *X-Men in the Savage Land: An Adventure to Color.*

Julia Molino, Marvel's marketing director who developed Marvel's current licensed publications plan, is a strong advocate for Marvel Books as vehicles for teaching children to read. Molino commented, "The X-Men in particular make great children's stories because they offer moral concepts — acceptance of diversity for instance — without being too academic."

"We are very proud of our new association with Random House," added Terry Stewart, President of the Marvel Entertainment Group. "What better way to introduce children to the excitement of reading than with books featuring The X-Men."

Kate Klimo, vice president and editor in chief of Random House's Children's Book Division, is well aware of the potential for X-Men books. Her 14-year-old son A.J. is a comic book fan who spends $30 per week supporting his habit. She revealed that when A.J. heard about his mom's pending deal with Marvel, he exclaimed, "Mom, you're crazy if you don't buy this license!" What Klimo has enjoyed most about this project is that "we're publishing something that everybody wants and can't get enough of. They have direct kid appeal.



"This type of interactive book has a much wider range of appeal than the average testosterone-infused license," she went on to say. You can start them on the mask book. They can run around in their pajamas wearing the masks, then they can go on to the flap book and the pop-up, and move on to the chapter books and digest novels. Kids can now do book reports on The X-Men."

Klimo described how the stories were chosen for the Bullseye digest novels. "The editors chose storylines [from X-Men comics] with what they thought would have the widest appeal — we wanted 'high concept'. Brood is a little like *Alien,* Savage Land has dinosaurs, and so on." A.J. suggested a Wolverine cycle. "The freelance writers really enjoyed working on these. They were reared on The X-Men and were already familiar with the [Marvel] Universe," Klimo said.

According to Klimo, the violent aspect of the tales is downplayed in the Random House books, especially those for younger readers. Instead, social concepts are emphasized. Said Klimo, "Kids can relate to The X-Men because they often feel alienated in their own universe." The children's books also needed to be less surreal than comics. "Little kids need things to be very clear," she added.

Suzanne Gaffney, one of Marvel's X-Men editors, is responsible for making sure the characters look, sound, and act in keeping with the boundaries established for the X-Men. For example, an artist might be asked to redo faces because they don't look accurate and character-specific. She also helps make layouts look more dynamic when necessary. Gaffney said, "There is actually a very small channel in which things either fit — and we proceed with the project — or they don't, and corrections are made.

"In translating The X-Men from comics to prose [or illustrated books], compromises must often be made, but these have more to do with the change in medium than anything else, and are never at the cost of the characters," Gaffney added. Occasionally, one of the editors from Random House or one of the other publishers will call with a question about a character or to discuss a change Gaffney has made. She continued, "It's a nice change of pace to talk with editors from outside of Marvel."

Gaffney, who once worked for the Marvel Books division and was on the other side of the adapting process, is now the one doing the approving instead of putting together projects for others to approve. She elaborated, "As an editor in the X-Men group, editing the children's books gives me a chance to see the characters from another perspective, and that's refreshing."

Readers of all ages will soon be able to see the X-Men from this new perspective for themselves. The mutants *are* coming.

Bookseller, freelance writer, and photographer **Dana Hayward** *recently reversed the path of the Brooklyn Dodgers in order to relocate from Southern California to the somewhat more stable New York City.*

IT'S A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME

GENERATION X

COLLECTORS' SWEEPSTAKES

Just fill out the questionnaire below-or an exact facsimile (remember, if you use a facsimile, it must be the same size as the original) - and send it to us at:

GENERATION X COLLECTORS' SWEEPSTAKES
MARVEL COMICS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

FIVE WINNERS will receive an *actual* animation cel from the original X-Men "lost episode," *PRYDE OF THE X-MEN.*

ONE WINNER takes home a *GAMBIT* porcelain bisque statue, hand-painted and crafted by the Randy Bowen Studio.

FIVE WINNERS each get a pewter *Xavier Institute 1994 Class Ring.* (Note *clearly* if you prefer size 8, 9, or 10- we'll try to accomodate you, but no promises.)

1. How many comics do you buy each month? _____

2. How many of those are Marvel Comics? _____

3. Please list five comic books you buy *every* month, by title.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. How many times per month do you shop for comics?

- ❑ One time each month
- ❑ Two times
- ❑ Three times
- ❑ Four times or more

5. Would you buy more Collectors' Previews?

❑ Yes ❑ No

6. If "yes," what would you like to see in the Previews?

_____

_____

_____

_____

All entries must be postmarked no later than November 1, 1994, and must be received no later than November 15, 1994. No purchase is necessary, and there is a limit of **one entry per person.** Employees of the Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. and their family members are not eligible to participate. Winners will be chosen by random drawing, and all winners will be notified by first class mail no later than January 1, 1995. This sweepstakes is sponsored by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. For a list of winners, send a self-addressed-stamped-envelope to the above address. Requests for a list of winners must be received by November 15, 1994. Allow four weeks for delivery. If a prize is unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances, Marvel will be responsible for making the most appropriate substitution available.

GENERATION X
SEVENTY-FIVE CENT ASHCAN EDITION
MARVEL
TM & © 1994 MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT

THE NAME'S SEAN CASSIDY. I'M THE MUTANT CALLED BANSHEE. I'M ALSO THE NEW HEADMASTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY--WHERE I'LL BE THE PERSONAL TRAINER OF THE MEMBERS OF GENERATION X. IT'S QUITE A CHALLENGE...IS THIS HOW CHARLES FELT AT FIRST? BACK WHEN HE WELCOMED HIS 5 NEW MUTANTS INTO HIS SCHOOL? SEEMS LIKE A GENERATION AGO. I PRAY MY INTERPOL TRAININ' AND ME TIME WITH THE X-MEN WILL BE ENOUGH TO TEACH THESE YOUNG HOW TO LIVE IN A WORLD THAT HATES AN' FEARS THEM--A WORLD WHERE IT BE BETTER IF THEY'RE NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD. AN' ME WITH A SONIC WRECKIN' BALL FOR A VOICE. THERE'S SOME KIND'A IRONY THERE.

PRINTED IN CANADA.

CHAMBER
NAME: JONOTHON EVAN STARSMORE
NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HE MAY BE A BORN LEADER, BUT GETTIN' ANYBODY TA FOLLOW HIM MAY BE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM. NOT ONE TO TALK MUCH ABOUT HIMSELF, YE'D THINK HIS LIFE BEGAN THE DAY HIS MUTANT POWER MANIFESTED ITSELF. HE'S HORRIBLY SCARRED BY HIS OWN POWER--BIO-BLASTS THAT THREATEN NOT ONLY HIMSELF, BUT THE REST OF THE TEAM AS WELL.

THE TEST'LL BE TO TEACH HIM HOW TO USE HIS "POWER" WITHOUT DESTROYIN' ANY MORE OF HIS BODY, OR HIS MIND, IN THE PROCESS.

WHITE QUEEN
REAL NAME: EMMA FROST
NATIONALITY: AMERICAN (BOSTONIAN)

WONDER IF XAVIER KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOIN' WHEN HE SET ME UP WITH THE HELLIONS OLD SCHOOL MISTRESS, EMMA FROST—THE WHITE QUEEN. I FEAR SHE'S NOT ALL THERE, ANYMORE. WITH THE DEATHS OF HER PAST STUDENTS AND THE RETURN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB, WHO'S TA SAY SHE'LL BE ON THE SIDE O' THE ANGELS?

STILL, HER PSYCHIC POWER WILL BE A HELP TO ME GETTIN' INSIDE MY NEW STUDENTS' HEADS, AND MAYBE THEIR HEARTS AS WELL.

HUSK
NAME: PAIGE GUTHRIE
NATIONALITY: AMERICAN (KENTUCKY)

AN EXCESS OF CONFIDENCE MAY BE HER ONLY TRUE PROBLEM. STILL, HER DOWN-HOME CHARM AND OPTIMISM MAY BE WHAT CHAMBER AN' THE REST OF THE TEAM NEEDS TO KEEP THE HORROR IN THEIR OWN LIVES FROM SWALLOWIN' THEM UP. ME PLAN IS TO ULTIMATELY TEACH HER HOW TO CONTROL HER CONSTANT SELF-INDUCED METAMORPHISES.

PENANCE
NAME: NON-APPLICABLE
NATIONALITY: YUGOSLAVIA

ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, SHE WAS LITERALLY DUMPED ON THE FRONT LAWN BY THE PORTIN' ABORIGINE KNOWN AS GATEWAY. HER PAST IS A MYSTERY BUT I FEAR IT'S FILLED WITH PAIN. AND ANGER. TRY AS THE OTHER STUDENTS MIGHT, SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO GET CLOSE TO HER. AN' HER POWER TO INTERNALIZE NEGATIVE ENERGY AND USE IT TO MAKE HER SKIN AND MUSCLES RAZOR SHARP COULD MAKE HER ONE O' THE MOST DANGEROUS MEMBERS OF THE TEAM--OR A THREAT TA THE TEAM ITSELF.

SYNCH
NAME: EVERETT THOMAS
NATIONALITY: AMERICAN (ST. LOUIS)

THE LAD EXUDES CONFIDENCE FROM EVERY PORE. THAT IS, EXCEPT WHEN HIS BODY'S AURA LATCHES ONTO ANY OTHER MUTANT'S ABILITIES--IN COMPLETE SYNCH WITH THEIR POWERS. HE'S THE MORAL CENTER OF THE TEAM. AN' I FEAR HIS LIMITED RANGE OF OMNIPOTENCE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS MAY LEAD THE VERY PEOPLE HE TRIES TO PROTECT TO REJECT HIM. INTERESTIN', REJECT HIS RIVALRY WITH CHAMBER —BOTH WANT TO LEAD GENERATION X.

MONDO
NAME: UNKNOWN
NATIONALITY: SAMOAN

HE'S EXACTLY WHAT THIS TEAM NEEDED. MONDO IS UNSHAKABLE IN HIS RESOLVE TO NOT WORRY AND SIMPLY BE HAPPY. I ALMOST EXPECT HIM IN BATTLE TO PICK THE VILLAIN UP, DUST HIM OFF, AND GIVE HIM A FAIR CHANCE TO CATCH HIS BREATH. HE ABSORBS LIVING MASS INTO HIMSELF AND BECOMES "LIKE" WHATEVER HE'S ABSORBED UNTIL HE DIGESTS IT. FER ONCE, BOTH EMMA AND I AGREE, THAT WE MUST INST'LL SOME SORT O' SURVIVAL INSTINCTS INTO MONDO IF HE IS TO LAST AS A MEMBER OF GENERATION X.

M
NAME: MONET ST. CROIX
NATIONALITY: ALGERIAN

THERE BE A MYSTERY ABOUT THE WEE LASS CALLED "M." SHE'S STRONG ENOUGH TO WRESTLE JUGGERNAUT TO THE GROUND AN' SMART ENOUGH TO EDIT ONE O' THE PROFESSOR'S DOCTORAL THESISES. BUT THERE ARE OTHER MOMENTS--MOMENTS I'M NOT PREPARED TO HANDLE--WHEN HER TEMPER TANTRUMS SEEM TO BETRAY A HIDDEN AND LOST CHILDHOOD. LORD HELP THE TEAM IF I CAN'T HELP HER.

SKIN
NAME: ANGELO ESPINOZA
NATIONALITY: AMERICAN (SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES)

IF WE SUCCEED IN TEACHIN' ANGELO HOW TO DEVELOP HIS SKIN (SIX EXTRA FEET IN ALL)-MANIPULATING POWERS TO THE POINT HE COULD PASS AS HUMAN, I GET THE FEELIN' HE'S NOT TO HAPPY WITH THE PROSPECT O' RETURNIN' HOME. THE LAD TOLD ME HIMSELF HE'LL NEVER GO BACK TO THAT CIRCLE OF VIOLENCE. ARE THE SENTINELS, PHALANX OR ARCADE ANY DIFFERENT? ONLY DIFFERENCE MAY BE THAT THERE'S AN "X" IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR CIRCLE.

JUBILEE

NAME: JUBILATION LEE
NATIONALITY: (IN HER OWN WORDS) SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

AFTER LOGAN LEFT, I WASN'T SURE HOW' INTERESTED JUBILEE WAS IN BEIN' A HERO. BUT WITH A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE, SHE SEEMS OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA OF CONTROLLING AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF HER "FIREWORKS" POWER. I FEAR THOUGH, HER DESIRE TO MAKE GENERATION X THE NEXT X-MEN MAY SPARK MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE O' TROUBLE WITH MY NEW STUDENTS.

HERE'S A SNEAK PEEK AT SOME OF THE PENCILS FOR *GENERATION X*!

Countdown to GENERATION X

GENERATION X is shaping up to be one of the hottest new series of the year, but before it hits the stands, as they say, you need to walk before you run, "rock" before you "roll", and in this case, check out the three-way "Phalanx Covenant". This series of three simultaneous X-crossovers races through July and August and forms the prelude to September's **GENERATION X #1.**

GENERATION NEXT

UNCANNY X-MEN #316 & 317
X-MEN #36 & 37

The first of the "Phalanx" crossovers kicks off when Banshee discovers he's home alone. . .but not really. The stuff hits the fan when the Beast, Storm, Gambit and Bishop turn out to be part of The Phalanx, that growing, evolving, techno-organism first seen in **UNCANNY X-MEN #312.**

Banshee finds that the phony "PhalanX-Men" have been rifling through Xavier's files, and he deduces that they have targeted several young mutants for termination! Banshee must face the grim facts that it is up to him and Jubilee — along with Sabretooth and White Queen — to escape The Phalanx, and find and defend the targeted mutants.

The crash and bang climax of "Gen-Next" takes place in a police precinct house in St. Louis with an all-out mutant/Phalanx brawl. But will Banshee and crew be in time to save the child mutants? And will Sabretooth and White Queen remain loyal to their temporary alliance?

LIFE SIGNS

X-FACTOR #106
X-FORCE #38
EXCALIBUR #82

This is the meat of "The Phalanx Covenant". Members of X-Factor, X-Force, and Excalibur seek a haven from The Phalanx on Le Mont St. Francis, where (with the help of Prof. X) they regroup and plan an assault. The half-human, half-Phalanx mutate that was Doug Ramsey (now "Douglock") is causing conflict among the members of these groups, especially with Rahne, who believes deep down that Doug's consciousness is still intact. Forge discovers that Douglock's brain imprints unlock the secret origins of The Phalanx and their true purpose, but turnabout is fair play; Douglock sends a techno-spike through Forge's mind. As Forge becomes "technoized", he and Douglock burrow deep into the earth, taking Wolfsbane and Cannonball with them!

The team is whisked away to what appears to be a quaint little European town. Forge realizes that the town itself is alive, part of the Phalanx, and he comes to the conclusion that this is a young and evolving life form that should be allowed to survive. The four X-Men are led to a giant structure that Forge discovers to be a beacon — The Phalanx are planning to summon their entire race to Earth!

Douglock is seized to be used as more techno-fodder for the Phalanx. Betrayed by his Phalanx brethren, he and Sam and Rahne plan to destroy the beacon from the inside.

THE FINAL SANCTION

WOLVERINE #85
CABLE #16

Cyclops, Phoenix, and Wolverine meet on Muir Isle, preparing to launch a mission to rescue their captured teammates. When they are attacked by the techno-circuitry present there, Cable arrives to even up the odds, and he and Jean devise a plan — using his newly discovered, techno-organic half to distract the Phalanx while Cyclops and Wolverine try to locate the missing X-Men. But there is great risk that Cable may not be able to break free of The Phalanx once he becomes infested.

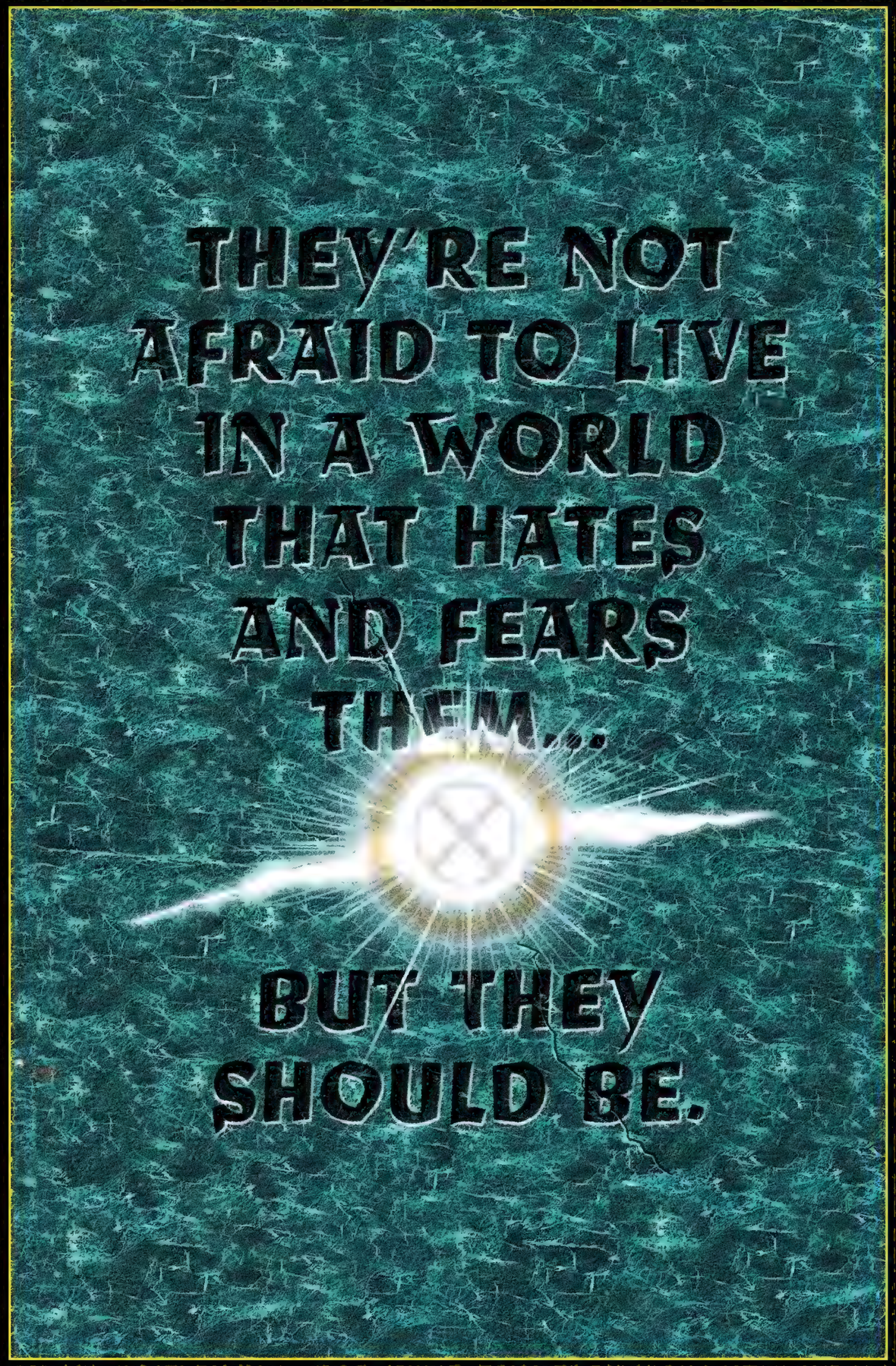
In the conclusion, the search for the imprisoned X-Men leads Wolvie, Cable, Scott, Jean and Cyclops to the Phalanx Womb. Stephen Lang (the focus of the Collective Intellect of The Phalanx) is trying unsuccessfully to incorporate Psylocke's mutant makeup into The Phalanx. Cable and Psylocke team up to short circuit The Phalanx.

So there's plenty of homework to do before **GENERATION X** makes its debut. There will be a quiz.

– Tom Daning

X-MEN UNLIMITED #6 PINUP BY BRYAN HITCH & CAM SMITH

"PHALANX COVENANT" HOUSE AD BY JOE MADUREIRA, TERRY AUSTIN & DENNIS CALERO



THIS PAGE AND FOLLOWING: THIS THREE-PAGE *GENERATION X* HOUSE AD RAN ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE FOLDOUT POSTERS IN *UNCANNY X-MEN #316-317* AND *X-MEN #36-37*.

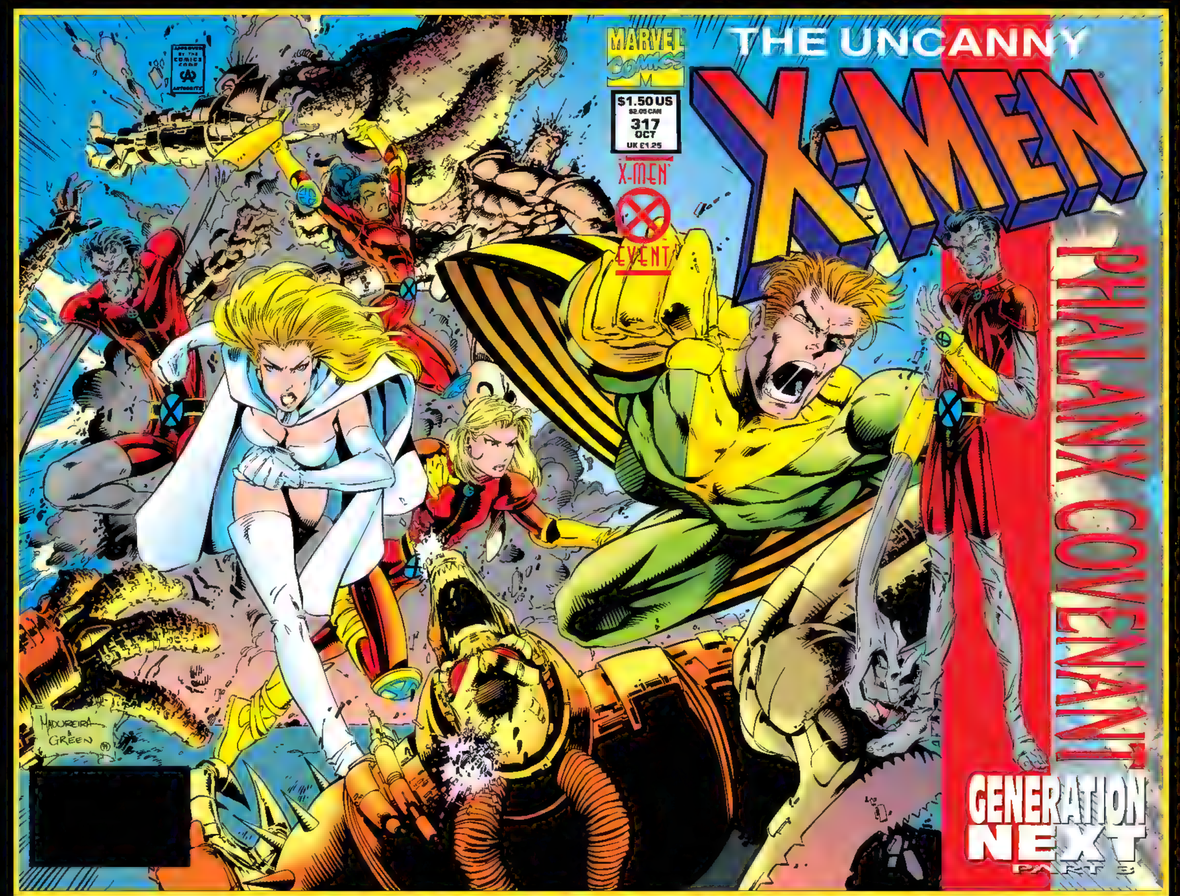
GENERATION X™

MONTHLY BY SCOTT LOBDELL, CHRIS BACHALO, AND MARK BUCKINGHAM

ART BY CHRIS BACHALO & DENNIS CALERO

MARVEL SWIMSUIT SPECIAL #3 PINUP BY SALVADOR LARROCA, SERGIO MELIA & TOM SMITH
TEXT BY ROB TOKAR

MARVEL SWIMSUIT SPECIAL #3 PINUP BY DARICK ROBERTSON, LARRY MAHLSTEDT & TOM SMITH
TEXT BY ROB TOKAR



THE NON-DELUXE EDITIONS OF EACH "PHALANX COVENANT" CROSSOVER ISSUE REPLACED THE METALLIC FOIL STRIPE WITH A RED STRIPE.

THE ORIGIN OF GENERATION X TPB COLLECTED *UNCANNY X-MEN #316-317*, *X-MEN #36-37* AND *GENERATION X #1*, PLUS *X-FACTOR #106*, *X-FORCE #38*, *EXCALIBUR #82*, *WOLVERINE #85* AND *CABLE #16*. COVER (2001 SECOND PRINTING) BY TERRY DODSON & RACHEL DODSON

FLEER ULTRA X-MEN '94 TRADING CARDS BY JULIE BELL, BRIAN STELFREEZE & DAVE DORMAN

MARVEL UNIVERSE 1994 TRADING CARDS BY CHRIS BACHALO & MARK BUCKINGHAM

MARVEL MASTERPIECES 1994 TRADING CARDS
BY GREG & TIM HILDEBRANDT

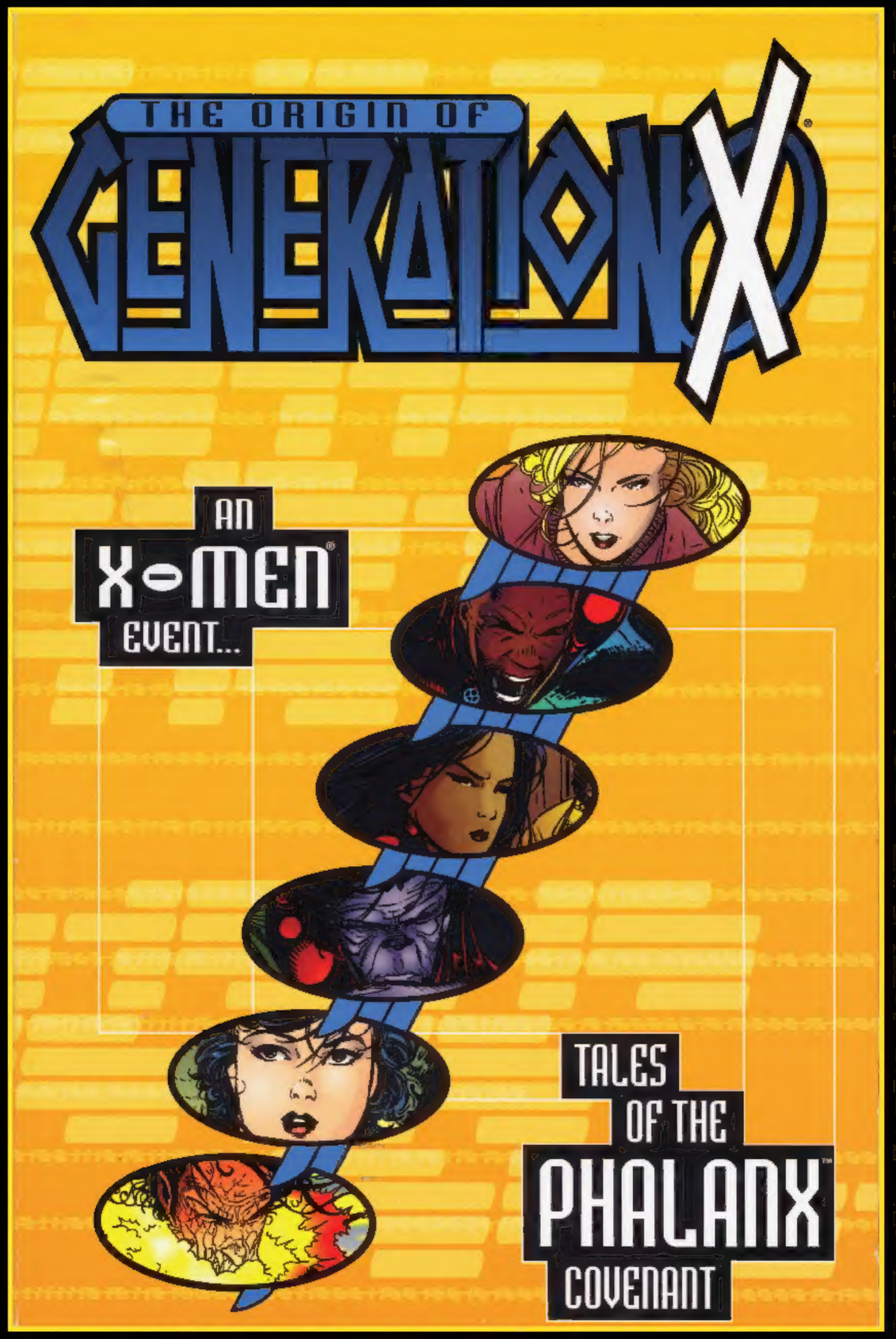
FLEER ULTRA X-MEN '95
TRADING CARD BY
GREG & TIM HILDEBRANDT

FLEER ULTRA X-MEN '95 TRADING CARDS BY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

GENERATION X CLASSIC VOL. 1 TPB COVER BY
CHRIS BACHALO, MARK BUCKINGHAM & JOHN KALISZ

GENERATION X CLASSIC VOL. 1 TPB BACK COVER BY
JOE MADUREIRA, DAN GREEN & JOHN KALISZ

ESSENTIAL WOLVERINE VOL. 5 TPB COVER BY
ADAM KUBERT & TOM CHU



THE ORIGIN OF GENERATION X TPB
(1996 FIRST PRINTING) COVER BY
CHRIS BACHALO & MARK BUCKINGHAM

The techno-organic aliens known as the Phalanx have targeted the next generation of mutants — and now Banshee, Jubilee and the White Queen must rescue Synch, Husk, M, Skin and Blink! But will all of them survive to attend the newly reopened Xavier's School? The sullen Chamber and mysterious Penance enroll as well — but who is the marrow-sucking monster called Emplate, and what is his connection to one of the students? As the students adjust to their new lives, romance blossoms and rivalries form even as they battle Orphan-Maker, Gene Nation and more! But what good are their mutant powers against…magic? Scott Lobdell and Chris Bachalo's '90s sensation begins here!

VOLUME
1
1994-1995

MARVEL
EPIC

UNCANNY X-MEN #316-318, X-MEN #36-37, GENERATION X #1-9, WOLVERINE #94, GENERATION X COLLECTORS' PREVIEW & GENERATION X ASHCAN EDITION

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